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Tuesday September 22 1998

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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

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One woman's story

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G2 with European weather

Nicole Kidman's London stage debut

She's here. But can she really act?



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Education

Five generations of women at Cambridge

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President awaits public's verdict after display of embarrassment and evasion

Clinton sweats it out



White House upbeat after broadcast of videotape

Martin Kettle in Washington

THE White House claimed last night to see "light at the end of the tunnel" after Bill Clinton appeared to survive the worst perils of his four-hour video testimony in the Monica Lewinsky investigation.

Though some of his Republican opponents immediately called upon Mr Clinton to resign after the embarrassing airing of the tape they released on Friday, there was no sign of that in Washington last night.

A White House source said: "If he had a three-man deputation led by the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost he wouldn't resign." Mr Clinton's former press secretary Dee Dee Myers said: "He's not going to give in to his enemies."

As the American public began weighing the unprecedentod sight of the nation's leader being questioned on television about intimate sexual details of his relationship with Ms Lewinsky, the former White House intern, world leaders gave Mr Clinton a standing ovation when he arrived to address the United Nations in New York.

The initial reaction among studio experts and Americans on the streets was that the videotape contained relatively little new specific damage to Mr Clinton.

But the former White House adviser George Stephanopoulos said: "I saw for the first time a scared President Clinton. I'd never seen that before."

As expected, the video showed Mr Clinton resentfully challenging the legitimacy of detailed sexual questioning by prosecutors working for the independent counsel Kenneth Starr in the August 17 session in the White House Map Room.

In one of the key exchanges, Mr Clinton argued repeatedly under insistent questioning that his use of the term "inappropriately intimate contact" to describe his relations with Ms Lewinsky was consistent with his denial of sexual relations to lawyers representing Paula Jones in a separate evidence-giving session on January 17.

"I have said what inappropriately intimate is," Mr Clinton said. "I have said what it does not include, I — it did not include sexual intercourse — and I do not believe it included conduct which falls within the definition I was given in the Jones deposition."

The initial impression of the videotape was that Mr Clinton was more composed than previous reports had suggested, with no angry outbursts or outright losses of temper.

But the tape showed a sometimes annoyed Mr Clinton admit to members of the grand jury that "it's an embarrassing and personally painful thing" to be giving evidence.

Mr Clinton frequently took the argument to his investigators, and reserved his strongest attacks for the lawyers representing Paula Jones in her sexual harassment suit. "I deplored what they were doing," Mr Clinton said, adding that he was "determined to walk through the minefield of this deposition without violating the law, and I believe I did".

Within minutes of the end of the four hours and three-minute videotape, the White House moved into attack mode, attacking Republicans for a "gratuitous decision" to release the videotape and two hefty volumes of other evidence, totalling 3,183 pages.

The White House said the overriding purpose of the releases was to embarrass Mr Clinton, and that it was now "clear to everyone" that his conduct did not justify impeachment.

In the new volumes of released evidence, the transcript of Ms Lewinsky's grand jury evidence contained two significant explicit denials that she was ever asked to lie by Mr Clinton or by his friend Vernon Jordan.

All sides in Washington are aware that opinion polls over the next few days could hold the real key to Mr Clinton's future as Congress weighs its decision whether to begin an impeachment inquiry. Opinion on Capitol Hill remains firmly convinced that Congress will vote by early October to begin such an inquiry.

The last pre-video opinion polls showed further evidence of a slippage in Mr Clinton's position, with a Gallup poll for CNN television showing a 4 per cent fall in the president's job approval ratings in the past week and similar falls in the public's opposition to impeachment and resignation. Mr Clinton's popularity with the public remains generally strong, however.

While Mr Clinton's testimony was being aired across the world, he was receiving a warm reaction from world leaders at the UN, led by President Nelson Mandela of South Africa. Mr Clinton did not watch the video, his spokesman said.



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Four pages of unrivalled news coverage with full details of the President's video testimony, pages 2-5

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"A continuing slide in the President's ratings would have a crucial effect on politicians' calculations."
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"Starr's leaks, like Starr's report, were one-sided. The forecast of death by video will perhaps turn out to be premature."
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"There was much to deplore, but, on balance, more to admire in the President's performance."
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Follow the latest developments on the Guardian website at: http://reports.guardian.co.uk/clinton/

It's not about sex. It's politics, stupid

Comment

Polly Toynbee in Washington

HOW DID it come to this, the ultimate humiliation, the president of the United States starring on the Jerry Springer-Oprah Winfrey Show of all time? Whatever the founding fathers meant by high crimes and misdemeanours, they were very clear about cruel and unusual punishment. This was slow torture by excruciating embarrassment.

"This material is unsuitable for children," the television news presenters warned sanctimoniously. It was unsuitable for us all. Sixty-eight per cent of Americans said so too — they never wanted the tapes broadcast. And 55 per cent said they wouldn't watch them in any form.

But of those who did watch, many may think a little better of their president and a great deal worse of his grotesque persecutors. As the hours of inexplicably crackly, ill-filmed tapes rolled on, the sense of unreality grew. Surely not? *Not this?* The precise legal status of "the insertion of an object into another person's genitalia"?

If once in a while — but surprisingly rarely — Mr Clinton protests, isn't that what victims of gross invasion of privacy have a right to do? You can watch people goaded week after week on people-freak shows, but this, for God's sake, is the president.

Despite all the gleeful advance briefings predicting the tapes would kill Bill Clinton, the Republicans may have blundered badly. The president keeps his cool remarkably well under obscene and prurient questioning.

Listening to all four hours and three minutes, the disproportion of this groping investigation into a pathetic and tacky affair defies belief: "Did you give her a box of cherry chocolates?"

Now we wait to see if the good sense of the voters holds up. So far, the majority still say he's doing a good job, and now his character may even emerge enhanced. He sounds human, warm and a great deal better than his prosecutors. He is, for instance, kind and affectionate about Monica — no more "that woman" stuff. Sure, he quibbles: "It depends on what the meaning of 'is' is", was a gem that will live forever.

For four years, Kenneth Starr has trawled through the trashcans of the president and his wife — and in the end this is it, this is all. No evidence on misdeeds over the Whitewater property scheme in Arkansas, on abuse of files about opponents, on corruption over White House travel; just sex and lying about it. The Paula Jones case — in which the president lied when he denied a sexual relationship with Mmonica Lewinsky — was set up and financed by the Republicans. It was thrown out of court.

No, what we watched yesterday was not about sex, lies, morals or the good of the nation. It's politics, stupid. So far 56 senators and congressmen have called for Mr Clinton's resignation and 54 of them are Republicans. Newt Gingrich, the House of Representatives' Speaker, is the man orchestrating this. He intends to run for president in 2000 and all he has ever wanted is to fell Bill Clinton.

But that may have blinded him so he failed to see that these tapes restore a sense that Mr Clinton is also a likeable man, for all his flaws.

The Democrats, many of them fearful for their seats in November's mid-term elections, have squirmed, wriggled and privately raged at the president throughout all this. But now the excesses of Mr Gingrich and his Starr hellhound could force them, willy nilly, into a stronger phalanx

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A judge yesterday appealed for public help in tracking down a boy aged nine, abducted by his peace activist mother, warning that the child might be at risk.
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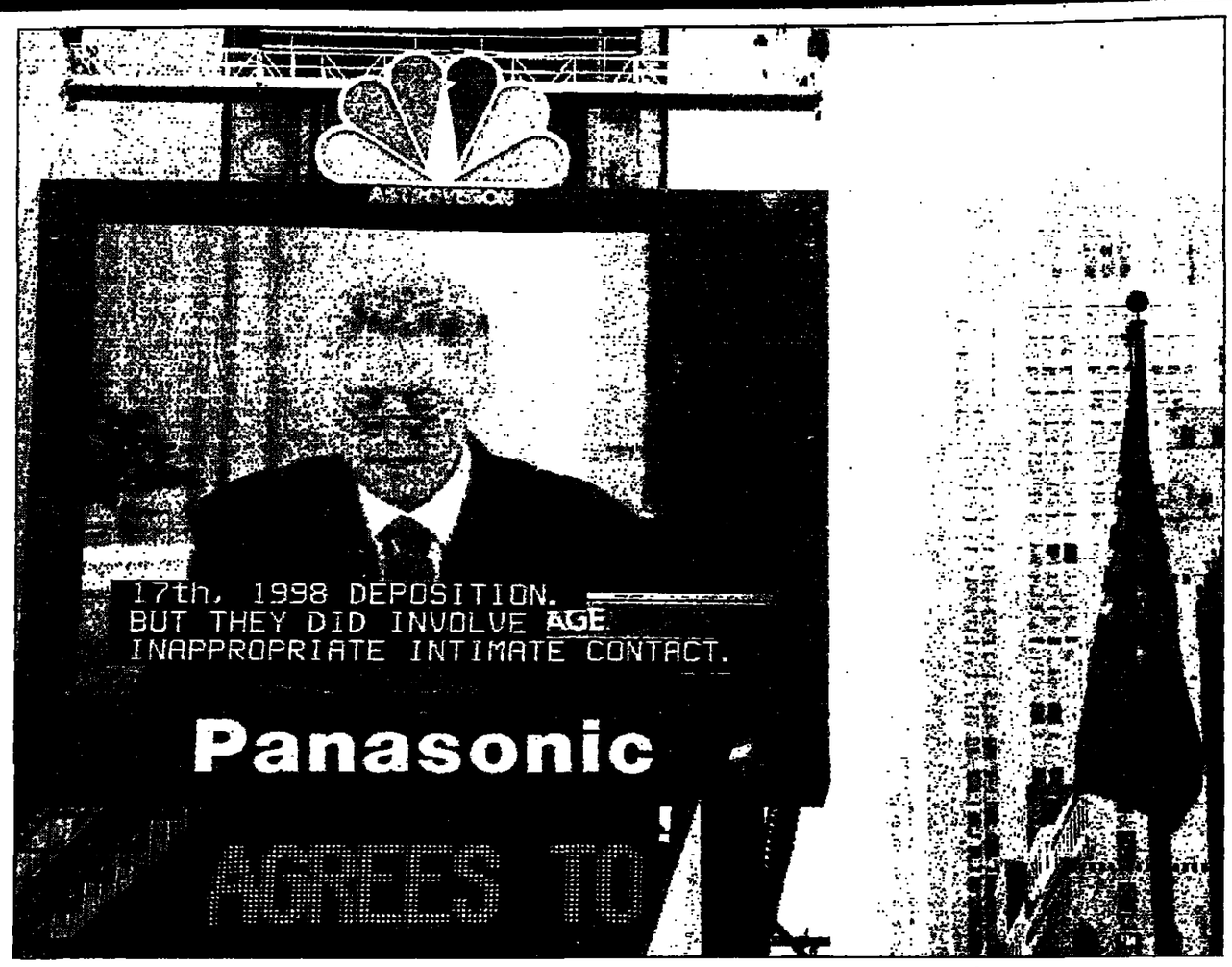
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The Clinton crisis

The majority of exchanges resembled a human biology lesson taught by Jesuits

Mark Lawson

When is sex not sex? The accused makes his case





'These did not constitute 'sexual relations' as I understood that term to be defined in the Jones case, but they did involve inappropriate intimate contact'

The videotaped grand jury interrogation of President Bill Clinton being screened yesterday in Times Square, New York PHOTOGRAPH: BRAD RICKERBY

Julian Borger in Washington

IT BEGAN with a deep, weary sniff. The president then gave his name, William Jefferson Clinton. For the occasion he had chosen a dark jacket, a white shirt, a plain green tie, and a pale, pale face.

In the White House Map Room, with a small vase of flowers behind, he was informed of his rights and responsibilities. He could consult with his lawyer. He could invoke privilege against self-incrimination without that invocation being used against him.

It was a more polite formulation of the familiar: "You have the right to remain silent" suspected felons hear when their luck runs out. The president was told that any answer he did give could and would be used against him.

There followed a discussion about truth and the whole truth. Did he understand that he was required to give the whole truth, a complete answer to each question?

President Clinton replied: "I will answer each question as accurately and fully as I can."

Did this oath then mean the same as the oath he swore on January 17 in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case?

"Well, no one read me a definition then and we didn't go through this exercise then. I swore an oath to tell the truth, and I believed I was bound to be truthful and I tried to be ... I believe when a witness is under oath in a civil case, or otherwise under oath, the witness should do everything possible to answer the questions turthfully."

Then, some seven minutes into the testimony, the independent counsel's lawyer, Robert Bittman, arrived at the crux of the matter, apologising for the intimate nature of the questions which were about to come the president's way.

Mr Clinton was ready for this moment. "I think I can save you and the grand jury a lot of time if I read a statement, which I think will make it clear what the nature of my relationship with Ms Lewinsky was and how it related to the testimony I gave ... And, with your permission, I'd like to read that statement."

He reached into his left hip pocket and drew out a folded piece of white paper, and donned a pair of glasses which were to be his main prop throughout his testimony. They were of the half-moon variety, enabling him to glance over their edge and, with a professional air, talk to the camera. The action of putting the glasses on made him look thoughtful. Taking them off gave the impression of directness.

The statement read: "When I was alone with Ms Lewinsky on certain occasions in early 1996 and once in early 1997, I engaged in conduct that was wrong. These encounters did not consist of sexual intercourse; they did not constitute 'sexual relations' as I understood that term to be defined at my January 17 1998 deposition; but they did involve inappropriate intimate contact. These inappropriate encounters ended, at my insistence, in early 1997. I also had occasional telephone conversations with Ms Lewinsky that included inappropriate sexual banter. I regret that what began as a friendship came to include this conduct and I take full responsibiliy for my actions.

"While I will provide the grand jury whatever other information I can, because of privacy considerations affecting my family, myself and others, and in an effort to preserve the diginity of the office I hold, this is all I will say about the specifics of these particular matters. I will try to answer to the best of my ability other questions, including questions about my relationship with Ms Lewinsky, questions about my understanding of the term 'sexual relations' as I understood it to be defined at my January 17 1998 deposition, and questions concerning alleged subornation of perjury, obstruction of justice and intimidation of witnesses. That Mr Bittman is my statement."

The ensuing segment of the interrogation constitutes the most intensely detailed and philosophical examination, by any politician in living memory, of what sex means In the modern world. It is likely only medical specialists have been asked to give the matter more detailed on-screen examination.

The president tried as far as possible to camouflage the raw nature of the matter behind a thicket of euphemisms. At one point he said: "My understanding of this definition [of sexual relations] is it covers contact by the person being deposed with the enumerated areas, if the contact is done with an intent to arouse or gratify." The word "enumerated" appears to stand in for "erogenous".

Mr Clinton was referring to the definition of sexual relations as agreed in the Jones case. The deposed is the one giving testimony.

The implication was that if there was contact intended to gratify someone else, it did not count as sex.

The other point of issue in sex terms was what it meant to "cause" contact. That, the president said, seemed to suggest forcible contact. He countered: "I did not believe that anyone had ever suggested that I had forced anyone to do anything, and that I ... and I did not do that. And so that could not have had any bearing on any questions related to Ms Lewinsky."

The discussion about sex was clearly a difficult passage. The president's eyes began to wander and shift, momentarily unsure of where to settle. At one point he went over the heads of his interrogators to ordinary Americans They too, he said, thought sex meant intercourse.

"If you said 'Jane and Harry had a sexual relationship' — and we are not talking about people being drawn into a lawsuit and being given definitions and great efforts being made to trip them in some way, but you are just talking about people in ordinary conversation — I bet that the grand jurors, if they were talking about two people they knew and said they had a sexual relationship, they meant they were sleeping together, they meant they were having intercourse."

He was asked about a

Now on video: all the president's mannerisms

REVIEW: Mark Lawson sees Clinton survive the Starr treatment with the help of verbal gymnastics and icy tolerance

AMERICANS, preferring their politicians in short doses, pioneered the soundbite. Voters joked about Cuba, whose president liked to deliver four-hour speeches on TV. Yesterday, American television went Cuban, although the role of the cigar in this broadcast was more interesting than anything in Castro's.

The pre-publicity for the tapes had promised anger and filth. As it turned out, Clinton seemed evasive but icily tolerant under a tone, content and length of questioning never endured by any previous politician on television. Neither the curses nor the walkout widely previewed by the newspapers appeared on the four hours and three minutes of testimony screened yesterday. For any presidential enemy who hoped the tapes would be the killer, this will have been America's most disappointing video release since Heaven's Gate.

As for dirt, the fourth tape (of seven) was the X-rated one, as the grand jurors touched on body contact. At this point, on the channels which had decided to introduce a delay mechanism, the broadcasters started playing Blankety Blank, silencing bedroom nouns while a caption apologised: Strong Language Muted. The off-screen voice asked: "Would kissing the breast or touching the [silence] be conferred as ... the insertion of an item in the [silence]?" One of the old English euphemisms for vagina was "gap". Later, the word "lips" was blotted out from one answer, apparently in case it gave away how oral sex occurs.

The long-awaited pictures began with two women marching into the transmission room on Capitol Hill holding yellow envelopes. It was like the moment in a nuclear thriller when they bring the president the key that unlocks the silos. But now the countdown was to the president's own potential destruction. In close-up, a finger pressed PLAY and launched the seven cassettes towards the American population.

The majority of the exchanges resembled a human biology lesson taught by a Jesuit, as Clinton and Starr's assistants jousted over precisely what was allowed to go where in which circumstances. Most of the words, though, had already been published. On this evidence, Clinton will be judged by appearance.

A president generally speaks on television with lighting, make-up, camera angles and words arranged by his highly paid beautifiers: the star treatment. Here he got the Starr treatment: the television equivalent of 7am in the bathroom mirror. His eyes were as pouchy as a knocked-out boxer's, his face spasmodically bright red even before the embarrassing questions started. He was roughly miked-up so that when he sniffed or cleared his throat, the sound was like a fart.

But, if Clinton was disadvantaged visually, he may also benefit by being the only participant in the proceedings to be seen at all. American lawyers depend on their appearance but here the Starr team were off-screen: radio to the president's television. The lawyers appear on these videos only as pedantic, censorious voices.

Linguists will seize on much mazey phrasing: "I do have a good memory. At least I have had a good memory in my life." Body-linguists will untwist episodes of blinking, nose-fingering and cheek-twitching.

All of the previous great television events — the Coronation, Moon landings, the Gulf war, Diana's funeral, the O J Simpson and Louise Woodward trial verdicts — were all broadcast live, their simultaneity providing much of the power. Recorded pictures captured by a single static camera — with a permanent buzz in the background — these images technically recalled the early days of television.

This was also — spookily — the first historic broadcast during which the main participant was captured on cameras elsewhere doing something else: appearing at the UN in New York. President Clinton was yesterday televisually in two places at once. At times during his recorded evidence, the screen split to show the president on stage at the UN.

Every commentator on this presidency has referred to the Two Clintons: disciplined/reckless, charming/sleazy, idealistic/opportunistic. It could never have been guessed, however, that, on the critical day of his presidency, there would be two Clintons side by side on TV.

Opinion polls will now write the most important television review ever. Advance word, however, had suggested that Clinton's fabled mastery of TV was undermined by this appearance. But, in some ways, it was underlined: his concentration, verbal fluency and charm essentially survived to this unprecedented examination.

One of the peculiarities of this presidential crisis is that few of the usual terms for political survival can be used. Clinton cannot safely be said to have stuck it out, pulled it off or held his own, each expression vulgarised by a footnote in the Starr Report. But, in any other circumstances, those phrases might be employed. The master of TV again screened out his troubles.

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The Clinton crisis

Mr Clinton may recover and survive. In modern politics, survival is its own achievement
Martin Kettle





Charles Atkerson and customers at his restaurant in Hot Springs, Arkansas, Bill Clinton's childhood home, watch the tape PHOTOGRAPH: DANNY JOHNSTON

Tense debate and war over words

'That statement in the present tense, at least, is not inaccurate . . . That is, at the time he said that, and for some time before, that would be an accurate statement'

statement made by Robert Bennett, Mr Clinton's lawyer during the Jones case, referring to Ms Lewinsky's assertion that "there is no sex of any kind in any manner, shape or form with President Clinton". At this point, the presidential defence shifted to grammar.

Mr Clinton said: "That statement in the present tense, at least, is not inaccurate, if that's what Mr Bennett meant. That is, at the time that he said that, and for some time before, that would be a completely accurate statement."

And then came a further disclaimer: "You'd have to talk to him [Mr Bennett] because I just wasn't involved in this, and I didn't pay much attention to what was being said ... So, I can't comment on, or be held responsible for, whatever he said about that, I don't think."

In other words, the presidential mind was elsewhere at that point during the Jones testimony. His lawyer, on this contentious issue, is on his own.

At that juncture in the 35th minute of the long slog, the president clearly saw an opening to embark on a counter-attack. He smiled the smile of the defiant victim who would not let his persecutors get him down.

They [Ms Jones' lawyers] knew they had a bad case on the law and they knew what our evidence was. They knew they had a lousy case on the facts. And so their strategy, since they were being funded by my political opponents, was to have this dragnet of discovery.

"And so ... they proceeded to cross the country and try to turn up whatever they could. What they did do ... was to find any negative information they could on me, whether it was true or not; get it in a deposition; and then leak it, even though it was illegal to do so.

"I've been subject to quite a lot of illegal leaking, and they had a very determined, deliberate strategy, because their real goal was to hurt me. When they knew they couldn't win the lawsuit, they thought, well maybe we can pummel him ... And so they just thought they would take a wrecking ball to me and see if they could do some damage."

The questioning moved on to the frequency of his meetings with Ms Lewinsky. His "educated guess" was that he had seen her "as many as nine times. Although I do not believe I saw her quite that many times." His description of their first personal encounter was: "I believe it was her last week as an intern. Anyway, she worked in the chief-of-staff's office. One night she brought me some pizza. We had some remarks.

"And I am frankly quite sure, although I have no specific memory, I am quite sure there were a couple of more times, probably two times more, three times more. That's what I would say. That's what I can remember."

There was talk of the gifts the president had given Ms Lewinsky. He smiled as he recalled giving her a bag from the Black Dog restaurant at Martha's Vineyard (said to be doing a roaring tourist trade since its name emerged), a marble bear's head and a blanket decorated with the insignia of the Rockettes dance troupe.

"They were Christmas gifts and they were going-away gifts. She was moving to New York, taking a new job, starting a new life. And I gave her some gifts."

He said he thought it was an appropriate gift. He could not recall giving her cherry chocolates or joke sunglasses, although he could not deny giving them to her.

This was a temporary respite which allowed Mr Clinton to reflect on his generosity and point out that there was nothing wrong with it.

"I have always given a lot of gifts to people, especially if they give me gifts. And this was no big deal to me. I mean, it's nice. I enjoy it."

But the questions turned back to the most dangerous territory for the president — whether he had tried to influence Ms Lewinsky into giving misleading testimony in the hearings for the Jones case.

"She mentioned to me that she did not want to testify. So that's how it came up ... Well, I did not want her to have to testify and go through that.

"I explained to her that it was a political lawsuit. They wanted to get whatever they could under oath that was damaging to me, and then they wanted to leak it in violation of the judge's orders, and turn up their nose and say, well, you can't prove we did it."

He insisted repeatedly that he had not told her to hide the gifts he had given her after she was subpoenaed in the Jones case. In fact he recalled telling Ms Lewinsky: "If you get a request to produce those, you have to give them whatever you have."

Nor, he said, did he instruct his secretary, Betty Currie, to visit Ms Lewinsky and collect the gifts (which Ms Currie later hid under her bed).

The gifts issue seemed to produce very little for the independent counsel team and instead they moved on the question of love. They asked President Clinton about a series of "intimate notes and cards" Ms Lewinsky had sent him. One of the longest pauses of the questioning up to that point followed the question: "She said she loved you?"

After some consideration the president's face reddened. He said: "I can't explain entirely what was in her mind," and then fell back once more on the question of definitions, saying: "You know, love can mean different things."

He could not recall, but could not deny that she compared their romance to the one between Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet's characters in Titanic.

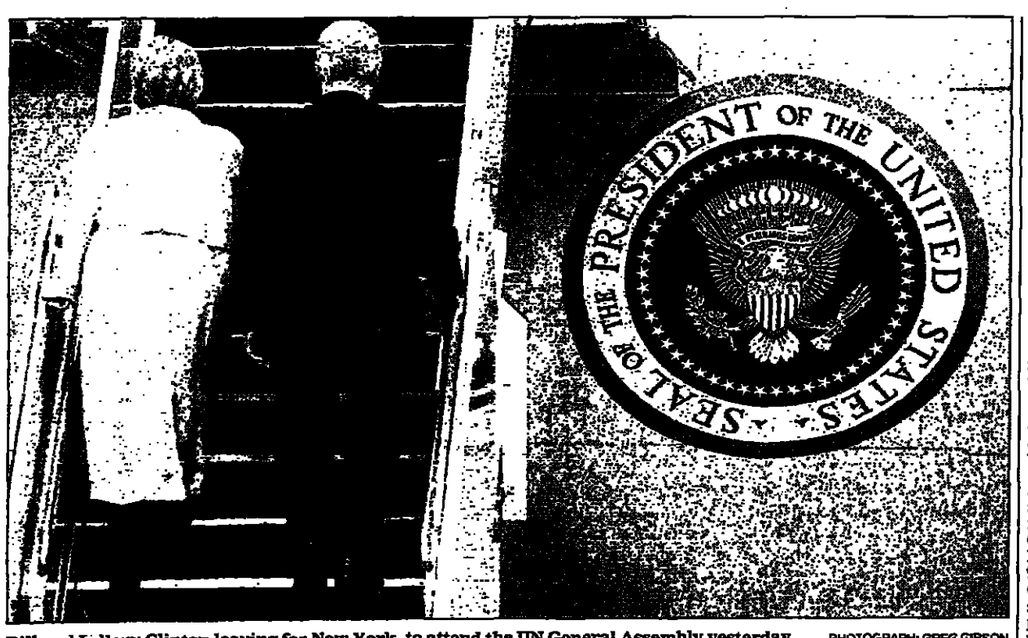
The questions went back to the suggestion that Mr Clinton tried to cover up the affair. He was asked to comment on Ms Currie's testimony that Mr Clinton discussed what the secretary knew of his relations with Miss Lewinsky and told her: "I was never alone with her, right?"

But the president countered: "'I was never alone with her, right,' might be a question. And what I might have meant by that is, in the Oval Office complex."

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Polls hold the key to survival

PUBLIC OPINION: A continuing slide in the president's ratings would have a crucial effect on the politicians' calculations, writes **Martin Kettle**



Bill and Hillary Clinton leaving for New York, to attend the UN General Assembly yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: GREG GIBSON

BILL Clinton built and sustained his presidency on the basis of public opinion polls. The polls will also now decide whether his presidency is to be destroyed.

Until now, US public opinion has stood solidly behind Mr Clinton. By majorities that are sometimes as high as 2:1 and rarely less than 3:2, Americans say Mr Clinton is doing a good job as president, should remain in office, should not be impeached, and should not resign.

Even in the most recent poll yesterday, on the morning when his videotape testimony was to be aired to the nation, Gallup found Mr Clinton enjoying 60 per cent job approval, and 60 per cent opposition to impeachment. Moreover, 62 per cent said the Clinton videotape should not have been released.

Yet this latest poll, plus another which appeared in Newsweek magazine over the weekend, also showed the beginnings of a slide in Mr Clinton's ratings. Compared with a week ago, the Gallup poll showed a 4 per cent drop in approval and similar erosion of the public opposition to impeachment or resignation.

This trend will now hold the key to Mr Clinton's future. If the polls this week after the airing of the videotape confirm and continue that slide, then politicians of both parties will feel less inhibited than they now are about pressing, privately or publicly, for Mr Clinton to go. If, on the other hand, the president's ratings stabilise or even increase, the political calculations in Washington will become even more finely balanced than they have been so far.

Mr Clinton's trump card in the battle for survival remains his popular mandate. He is a twice elected president, and the formal and informal impediments to overturning the voters' verdict in any democracy are enormous. He is also a popular president, at least in the sense recorded by opinion polls. In an election year, the politicians who now sit in judgment upon him will have to calculate the enormous stakes of a move to impeachment.

A downturn in Mr Clinton's ratings following yesterday's videotape will encourage the Republican majority on the House of Representatives judiciary committee to begin a formal impeachment inquiry, with the crucial vote likely in the first week of October, before Congress breaks for the mid-term elections. The committee is likely to begin its work during the recess, perhaps beginning to hold hearings in late October.

The march towards impeachment, Republican strategists believe, will demoralise Democratic voters and lead to further Republican gains in the November 3 mid-term elections. Such gains in the House of Representatives would not substantially affect the formal side of the impeachment process, though they would continue to drain support for Mr Clinton.

Gains in the Senate elections, on the other hand, would have greater significance for the process. Any impeachment of Mr Clinton requires a vote of two thirds of the 100-member upper house. The Republicans have 55 senators to the Democrats' 45, so at least 12 Democratic senators must vote with all the Republicans in order to remove the president from office. Projections suggest five Republican gains on November 3, increasing the Republican strength to 60, and reducing to seven the number of Democrats needed for impeachment.

This is perhaps the most important reason why Mr Clinton's attempts to rally support within his party will be crucial. In the end, Democrats hold Mr Clinton's future in their hands.

This presents a huge problem for Mr Clinton for two reasons. First, Democrats are angry about his behaviour in the Monica Lewinsky case, and are apprehensive about the effects the revelations will have on their electoral chances. One senator, Joseph Lieberman, has denounced him, and others, including Bob Kerrey and Daniel Patrick Moynihan, have supported Mr Lieberman. Second, Mr Clinton has very little political credit with many congressional Democrats. His presidency has been based upon separation of the president's fortunes from those of the party. Mr Clinton's "New Democrat" strategy, especially in his 1996 re-election campaign, openly rejected many of the constituencies and policies which are represented by Democrats in Congress.

Mr Clinton's presidency may well be seen by future historians as it is seen today by many generally pro-Democrat opinion formers and Democratic voters, as a huge historic disappointment consisting mainly of strategic retreats in a rightwing era and as a catastrophic personal letdown for a generation of American liberals.

And yet the pervading sense of political anticlimax surrounding the Clinton presidency is not entirely Mr Clinton's responsibility. A Democratic president confronted with a Republican Congress in a generally conservative age of economic prosperity can still satisfy the voters without driving through the programmes that party loyalists would prefer. This has been Mr Clinton's situation for most of his White House years and it may be so for the remaining two years before he is scheduled to retire in 2001.

Early yesterday morning, Washington was gripped by a palpable sense of foreboding about the future of Mr Clinton's presidency. "In the White House," ran the front page headline in the New York Times, "a Deep Sense of Gloom." Such headlines accurately relect the fact that the balance of opinion in the nation's capital has tended against Mr Clinton in the past few weeks. Yet the political class in the national capital sometimes gets things wrong, and it is still very possible that Mr Clinton may recover and survive. In modern politics, survival is its own achievement.

It's not about sex, lies or morals. It's politics, stupid

continued from page 1

behind their man. Because, when the chips are down, that's all there is — fierce partisan politics.

In the light of that, consider how bizarre that just as the videos were playing live across the world, President Clinton was sitting down at a seminar in New York with Tony Blair to discuss a political strategy called the Third Way.

If ever there was an example of why there is no Third Way, it's here in Washington now. When the chips are down there is only Them and Us, Democrats and Republicans, progressives and reactionaries, the tolerant and the intolerant.

This battle for Mr Clinton's survival divides the nation down that same elemental fault line. Every vox pop on the television tells you which way the speaker swings, left or right. Yesterday Miss America was crowned, and what's the first thing she says? Mr Clinton should resign. Why? Well, she works for a right-wing religious television network, so of course it follows.

Mr Clinton may not be the best champion for the left, but he is all they've got. So the powerful black caucus stands firmly behind him, while the Republicans cast him as the dope-smoking, libertine son of the Sixties. Children of the Sixties have to back him, come what may, for "the Sixties" is code for social justice, freedom, toleration, racial and sexual equality.

In the last few weeks, in the land of real politics, here are some of the battles Mr Clinton has fought with Mr Gingrich's party. First and most vital, he asked the Republican Congress for a desperately needed $18 billion (£11 million) in new money for the International Monetary Fund to use as aid to hose down the danger of global financial meltdown. Isolationist, anti-tax, short-sighted, the Republicans threw it out: they may live to regret that bitterly if moulten drops start burning American toes.

What else? The Republicans drew up a plan to use the budget surplus to cut taxes for the rich. Mr Clinton angrily vetoed that, declaring the money was needed for education and social security. Mr Gingrich will try again. Last week the Republicans tried once more to outlaw late abortions. Mr Clinton vetoed that too. They'll try again.

So in the end, whether we like Mr Clinton, whether we admire Mr Clinton, whether he is a disappointment and an adolescent brat in his private life, is all beside the point. Just look across the floor at Newt Gingrich and know where you stand. Sex is not the issue.

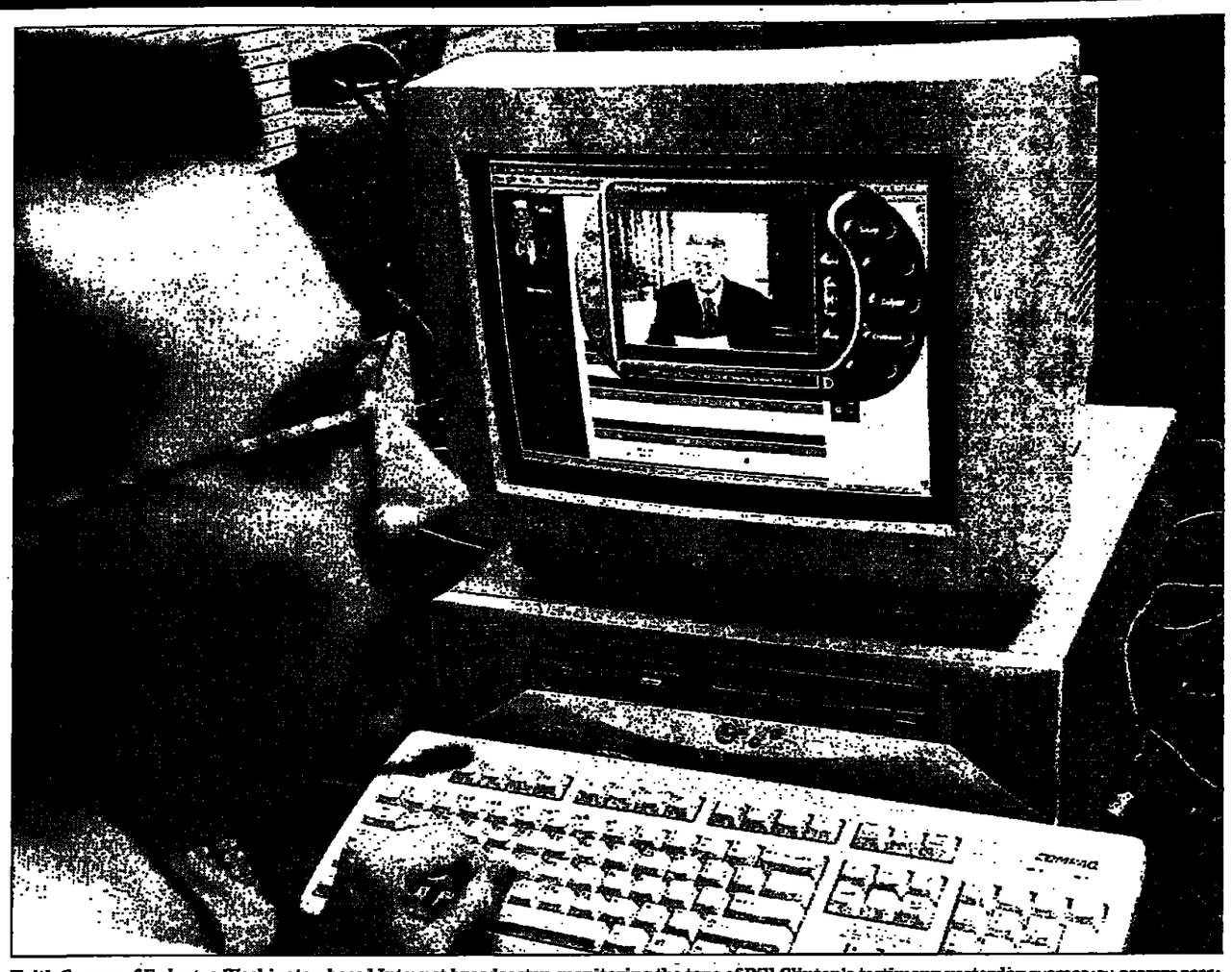
Will President Clinton survive? If he does, he risks being deeply damaged, not so much lame duck as legless duck. But forcing a president out over this paltry stuff will unleash a whole new sexual Armageddon in politics. It might have been fun to see some of Mr Clinton's key Republican accusers exposed last week as fornicating family-values liars, but will all politics from now on depend on penises not policies?

Now and again in his testimony on the tapes, Mr Clinton eloquently defends his right to privacy. When the American people express their will through the post-video opinion polls, whatever they may think of their president, let's hope they agree. At the United Nations yesterday the world's representatives got to their feet and gave an unexpected standing ovation to the US head of state. Whatever they each think of Clinton the man, they were united on the need to keep politics serious. The rest is decadence.

The Clinton crisis

Chancellor Kohl said public interest in the details of Mr Clinton's sexual escapades made him want to throw up

No signs of the burst of anger claimed by Starr





'I have been shocked at how many things that I have forgotten in the last six years. I'm amazed there are lots of times when I literally can't remember last week'

Keith Carney of Fednet, a Washington-based Internet broadcaster, monitoring the tape of Bill Clinton's testimony yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERTO BOREA

continued from page 3

The point is a preview of a convoluted argument he would later put forward over the meaning of the word "alone".

After a ten minute break requested by Mr Clinton, the interrogators returned once more to Ms Lewinsky's flat denial in the Jones case of sex "in any manner, shape or form".

It seemed as if the president had given some thought during the break to which of his various defences was best suited to this difficult matter and had clearly plumped for the grammatical gambit.

At this moment, the president gave a little, almost, cheeky, you-may-find-this-hard-to-believe smile, drew breath and said: "It depends on what the meaning of the word 'is' is. If 'is' means is and never 'has been', that is not ... that is one thing. If it means there is none, that was a completely true statement."

He went on to explore the concepts of time, space and sex in greater depth. This was Slick Willy at his slickest, words for which he may well be remembered in trivia quizzes for years to come.

"I mean that at the time of the deposition ... that was well beyond any point of improper contact between me and Ms Lewinsky. So that anyone generally speaking in the present tense, saying there is not an improper relationship, would be telling the truth if that person said there was not, in the present tense; the present tense encompassing many months. That's what I meant by that."

At his trickiest moments, Mr Clinton's voice seemed to go south. The Arkansas roots burn through in the accent, along with a self-deprecating chuckle. It is his campaigning voice, honed over decades in his home state.

There were occasional flashes of displeasure at questions which returned "for the third or fourth time", but not the "explosion of anger" promised in leaks from Mr Starr's office.

During his testimony, Mr Clinton made it clear that he was aware that the session was being videotaped (apparently for the benefit of an absent grand juror) and expressed his displeasure, intimating that he suspected that it would ultimately find its way into the public arena.

He seemed to have tailored his appearance with that in mind. His most ringing (and therefore most soundbite-worthy) statements are accusatory in tone, in the form of presidential denunciations of the Starr inquisition.

Much of the questioning was aimed at apparent contradictions between his deposition at the Jones hearings in January and subsequent statements given by other witnesses. For example, his friend Vernon Jordan had testified that he informed the president in December 1997 that Ms Lewinsky had been subpoenaed by Ms Jones's lawyers, but Mr Clinton had said in January he had not been told.

President Clinton's response was that he had been struggling to remember things under "rapid-fire" questioning and may not have got everything right.

"There were lots of things that had gone on during this time period that had nothing to do with Monica Lewinsky," he said, attempting to remind the grand jury of his presidential role.

But, countered the Starr lawyer Solomon Wisenberg, Mr Jordan had testified about the president's excellent memory.

Mr Clinton agreed about being so "blessed and advantaged in my life" but added: "I have been shocked ... at how many things that I have forgotten in the last six years, I think because of the pressure and the pace and the volume of events in the president's life, compounded by the pressure of your four-year inquiry ... I'm amazed there are lots of times when I literally can't remember last week."

It is an ambitious tactic. Mr Clinton thus opened a general purpose escape-hatch for himself (in many ways following the example of his predecessor, Ronald Reagan) and craftily attempted to put the blame for his inconsistencies on his enemies in the court.

This was a central battlefield throughout the four hours of testimony. The Starr team pushed Mr Clinton towards admitting lying in his Jones testimony. The president retreated on several occasions, saying he did not feel it was his job to offer new evidence that would be of help to hostile lawyers, but did not technically lie.

As he put it: "I wanted to be legal without being particularly helpful.

"A lot of other things were going on in my life. Did I want this to come out? No. Was I embarrassed about it? Yes. Did I ask her [Ms Lewinsky] to lie about it? No."

This is the wall against which the president was pushed.

During each break in the proceedings, the grand jurors came up with questions, which were then put to Mr Clinton when the session resumed. While the lawyers tended to chip away at various presidential inconsistencies, the jurors appeared to have been anxious to get back to the sex.

What did the president mean exactly when he talked about inappropriate conduct? And what about oral sex — was that not, after all, real sex? And if not why not?

The president's response was to complain about being forced to discuss something "that is intensely painful to me", and to fall back back to the earlier definition of sex put forward in the Jones case.

It was clear by this point that there was no way that President Clinton was going to be caught out talking dirty on video.

In a series of questions he was obliged to go into yet more detail on the question of sexual contact, but he was careful to let his interrogator make most of the sexual references, leaving him to agree or disagree. So, touching breasts would be included as sex but only if that meant direct contact with flesh. So would kissing breasts.

And so to the cigar. The question was: "Would you agree with me that the insertion of an object into the genitalia of another person with the intention to gratify sexually would fit within the definition used in the Jones case as sexual relations?"

The president swallowed

World condemns humiliation

REACTION: People and politicians throughout TV global village sympathise with Clinton over 'lynching' and say tape should not have been made public



Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, leaving his home in McLean, Virginia yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: KHUE BUI

FROM Johannesburg to Jordan, many of those who watched Mr Clinton's televised grilling by special counsel lawyers shared the same view: sympathy for the US president. Many agreed the tape never should have been made public.

In Germany, politicians of all parties united yesterday to condemn what they saw as the public humiliation of Mr Clinton.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl said public interest in the intimate details of Mr Clinton's sexual escapades with Monica Lewinsky made him "want to throw up".

Politicians from rival parties and Germany's main trade union in the media sector urged German television stations not to broadcast the videotape as planned.

Mr Kohl's comments were widely echoed by rival politicians in a rare example of consensus six days before Germany's general election. Opposition Social Democrats (SPD) and Green politicians spoke of an attempt by Mr Clinton's rivals to hound him out of office by drumming up public opinion against him.

Senior SPD politicians, in Bonn for the last meeting of party executives before the September 27 election, echoed Mr Kohl's disgust. "The whole thing makes me sick," said SPD party chief Oskar Lafontaine.

"Human rights should also apply to the American president, his wife and daughter," Greens deputy and parliamentary vice-president Antje Vollmer told the mass circulation Bild daily. She urged readers to flood the US. embassy in Bonn with fax, letter and e-mail demands that the "inquisition" of Mr Clinton be stopped.

In France, the prime minister, Lionel Jospin, indirectly criticising what many French people also see as the hounding of President Clinton, said yesterday that everyone on both sides of the Atlantic was owed respect.

"I believe that the sense of respect which is due to all on the other side of the Atlantic as well as here, should be maintained," Mr Jospin said when asked about the broadcasting of the videotaped testimony by Mr Clinton.

"The fact that we [France] are a very old nation and we have a very old state, the long experience of our people as a nation and as a democracy guarantee us perhaps against such excesses [as the Clinton affair]," he said.

The French Socialist Party called Kenneth Starr an "unsavoury figure" obsessed with sex and said that the real victim of his investigation was not the American president but the US itself.

"This is the Lewinsky soap opera now adapted for television," said Frédérique Bredin, party national secretary, referring to the tape of Mr Clinton's grand jury testimony.

The Paris daily France-Soir anticipated the reaction to the political "sex, lies and video" show with a cartoon showing an excited pig seated in front of a television set calling to his wife: "Hurry up, darling, the show is starting!"

Front-page news across the continent, the unprecedented broadcast of Mr Clinton's innermost secrets reminded Europeans that more than just the Atlantic separated them from the United States.

Commentators compared his ordeal to medieval tortures. "TV pillory for Clinton today", Italian headlines screamed. Die Welt in Berlin said he was "at the Video Whipping Post". Munich's Sueddeutsche Zeitung called it "electronic lynching".

Not content with just one condemnation, the Dutch daily NRC Handelsblad compared special prosecutor Kenneth Starr's methods to those of both the Spanish Inquisition and the former East German Stasi security police.

In Italy, the president's testimony was broadcast on two channels — one private, one public — with Italian voiceover.

"Everything they're doing is ridiculous," said Andrea Amedeo, 19, a student in Rome. "He's the leader of America and the world. Leave him in peace to worry about the real problems."

In Hong Kong, where passers-by watched on a screen at a shopping mall, Lisa Wong said she "supposed most people would lie to keep such an affair secret".

In Lebanon, the private Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation appeared to be the only station in the Middle East carrying the simultaneous broadcast.

In Jordan, many were glued to television sets in coffee houses and at homes watching the testimony on CNN.

"I disapprove of broadcasting the tape because I think it is purely an attack on the Democrats and it will not serve any good for the United States of America," said publisher Usama Sha'shaa.

In Greece, the tape was broadcast with simultaneous Greek translation.

Giorgos Dedemadis, a 42-year-old mathematics teacher, contrasted the grilling of Mr Clinton about Ms Lewinsky with the affair between the late premier Andreas Papandreou and a much younger woman, whom he married in 1989.

"They say the United States is a mature democracy and a serious country and you have a spectacle like this," Mr Dedemadis said. "At least in Greece we were sophisticated enough to separate a leader's private and public lives. It's clear Clinton's political opponents are just out to get him. It's sad."

Swiss German Television showed the video on its second channel for over an hour, with a voice-over by a German-language interpreter.

The right-of-centre watchdog Swiss Television and Radio Association said: "We cannot see what possible information the Swiss public could get out of this broadcast beyond pure voyeurism."

In downtown Amsterdam, barman Ruud Knapp watched from his post at the Cafe Kalkhover. "It's a soap, it's just about private sexual relationships, it's crazy," he said. "It's very sad for the man. It's embarrassing. He's not strong any more."

Cable channels on target for record ratings

TELEVISION: coverage pushes back taste barrier

Janine Gibson
Media Correspondent

THE fiercely competitive 24-hour news channels extended their fondness for Trial by TV to Deposition by TV yesterday, with blanket worldwide coverage of Bill Clinton's grand jury testimony.

Almost every cable news channel screened the tapes live, despite the daytime hours and explicit nature of the president's testimony, and they were predicting record ratings for the four-hour deposition.

As one news channel insider gleefully put it: "This stuff is great for ratings ... It's been an incredible few weeks for rolling news."

Court TV may be nothing new in the States, but in the UK it was viewed with some distaste until British au pair Louise Woodward's trial proved that the viewing public has an appetite for "as-it-happens" unexpurgated accounts.

But the main networks, both here and in the US, eschewed the blanket approach, opting for a dip in and out of the testimony.

Rupert Murdoch's US cable channel, Fox News, hosted the pool arrangements for the footage. Spokesman Brian Lewis said the channel was confident of record ratings of more than 1 million homes, and had no doubts about broadcasting the sometimes explicit material in full.

Fox ran the tapes with no built-in delay — a precautionary measure taken by other broadcasters so they could cut away from particularly unsuitable material — but did run on-screen disclaimers saying the material was unedited and might be offensive.

Fox's UK sister channel, Sky News, ran the footage with a built-in delay. Studio pundits were on standby to cut in, and the channel muted out a few words of the interrogation. "We had been warned that it gets quite explicit and not suitable for pre-watershed family viewing," said a spokesman.

The original 24-hour news channel, CNN, which reaches up to 1 billion homes worldwide, simultaneously broadcast its US coverage across the globe. It comprised a live relay with a delay long enough to cut away from the most salacious revelations.

The network rated 1.3 million US homes for President Clinton's apology to the nation, so was expecting more than a million homes for yesterday's broadcast, more than twice its daytime average."

CNN said it was broadcasting the tapes "because the House Judiciary Committee has voted to release the testimony in its entirety to the American public. CNN's decision to air the testimony reflects the vote to make [it] part of the public record."

Only the BBC drew the line at a live relay. Its rolling news channel, News 24, preferred to carry large, edited chunks. A spokesman explained: "It is important to present it in a way viewers can understand ... But there are also taste and decency issues. Whatever is broadcast has to be appropriate to the audience and the network".

However, the corporation did continue the multimedia tradition of the Starr Report. The Internet service, BBC Online, took the opportunity to increase its traffic by 500 per cent, by offering an Internet broadcast and site links to the documents released yesterday.

هكذا من الاصل

The Clinton crisis

"I was grossed out by the newscasters describing what was going to be said, but it's not bad so far"
Kimberley in New York bar



Sonya Todd watching the Clinton video at a shopping centre in Kingston, Surrey, yesterday. Her son, Andrew, is unimpressed PHOTOGRAPH: ADAM BUTLER

Humble video cassette takes its place in history

'I knew that the minute there was no longer any contact, she would talk about this. She would have to. She couldn't help it. It was a part of her psyche'

hard, reddened further, and paused. For the first time, a question appeared to have taken him by surprise.

He glanced down at his notes on sexual definition notes and asked, somewhat hopefully: "There's nothing here about that, is there? I don't know that I ever thought about that one way or another."

The "Definition of Sexual Relations" as agreed with the judge in the Jones case was passed around again and the question put once more. This time the president opted for a leap into the legal undergrowth.

"I suppose you could argue that since section 2, paragraph 2 was eliminated, and paragraph 2 actually dealt with the object issue, that perhaps whoever wrote this didn't intend for paragraph 1 to cover an object, and basically meant direct contact.

"So if I were asked — I've not been asked this question before. But I guess that's the way I would read it ... I'm just doing the best I can."

He pointed out that, under this famous definition, he had admitted to having had sex with Gennifer Flowers, the singer and his former mistress, whom the president accused of spreading "all kinds of ridiculous, dishonest, exaggerated stories about me for money".

This, he said, had been uncomfortable and embarrassing for him, as he knew it would be leaked.

But there was little sympathy for his discomfort, and soon it was back, once more, to oral sex. This activity, Mr Clinton said, was not covered by the definition he had accepted during the Jones case "if performed on the deponent".

He went into greater detail later, explaining that "if the deponent is the person who has oral sex performed on him and the contact is with ... the lips of the other person" then it was self-evident it was not sex. He had, he said, read the definition carefully.

So if Monica Lewinsky claimed that the president touched her breasts or genitals or said he "used a cigar as a sexual aid with her in the Oval Office area" would she be lying?

The president said he would "revert to my former statement".

Then came phone-sex, defined by the Starr team as occurring "when a party to a phone conversation masturbates while the other party is talking in a sexually explicit manner".

That again, Mr Clinton said, was covered by his previous statements.

In relations between men and women, the president said, "you're dealing with, in some ways, the most mysterious area of human life. I'm doing the best I can to give you honest answers."

And then, for the first time since the Lewinsky affair surfaced, the president voiced direct concern for its impact on the Lewinsky family — concern which had earlier been emphasised by White House officials before the tape was run — but it did not come without a dig at the young former intern's credibility.

The president said: "Maybe Ms Lewinsky believes she's telling the truth, and I'm glad she got her mother and herself out of trouble. I'm glad you gave her that sweeping immunity [he made a sweeping gesture with his arm to emphasise how grateful he was]. I'm glad of the whole thing. I, I, I — it breaks my heart that she was ever involved in this."

Mr Clinton said that he saw nothing wrong in his efforts to help Ms Lewinsky get a job "even if you look at the facts here in their light most unfavourable to me".

Monica, he said, was "basically a good girl. She's a good young woman with a good heart and a good mind. I think she is burdened by some unfortunate conditions of her upbringing. But she's basically a good person."

He gave no details about what these unfortunate conditions were, but in his mind they had contributed to her being a potential tell-tale.

He said: "I knew that the minute there was no longer any contact, she would talk about this. She would have to. She couldn't help it. It was, it was a part of her psyche."

At various moments, as the testimony wore on, Mr Clinton put his hands together with the tips of his fingers touching his chin. It was a thoughtful pose, but it also looked like a prayer.

He complained at one point that the questions were an attempt "to criminalise my private life".

He said he would "give anything in the world not to be here talking about it", especially as he was aware that the videotape of the session was going down in the annals of American history.

But the prospect of entering the presidential annals did not deter the Starr lawyers from asking about the infamous semen stain on Ms Lewinsky's dress.

The president would not be drawn. He referred them back to his definition of sexuality and implied that the semen was not inconsistent with this.

Towards the end of the session, the questions focused on an alleged affair Mr Clinton had had with a campaign worker, Kathleen Willey. The president denied the claims outright, although he acknowledged he might have phoned her from his hotel room in Virginia in 1992.

He could not recall what the calls were about and certainly did not invite Ms Willey to his room. He said Ms Willey's credibility had, in any case, been shattered.

The session overshot the four hours agreed, but the Starr lawyers wanted to add more direct questions from the grand jury. Perhaps fearing a return to the vexed issue of oral sex, Mr Clinton declined, saying he would have preferred to have had the jurors come to the White House to ask their questions rather than the session being videoed. And it was on that note that the president got the last shot in.

Mr Wisenberg insisted that a video of the president's testimony was only being made for the absent juror.

"Is that the only reason, Mr Wisenberg, you have to videotape?" asked David Kendall, the president's lawyer asked.

Mr Clinton perked up. "Well, yes. Do you want to answer that?"

No answer came.

Manhattan café order: one president, to go

COAST TO COAST: It's a typical Clinton constituency in New York: hip and liberal. But **Rory Carroll** discovered a sour taste in the Big Apple

PRESIDENT Clinton started talking about a cigar and Nathan Kipperman knew it was time for the broom handle. His customers' appetites wouldn't survive much more detail so he strained upwards with the handle and lowered the volume on the two televisions above his head.

No one said a word. Most had come for breakfast not realising the presidential peccadilloes would seep into this lower Manhattan café, the News Bar.

"Oh God, gross. Did he say cigar?" said Melissa Butler, aged 28, pushing away her coffee. "It's just sick. It's disgusting. Look at him, he's squirming."

The TVs were now silent but subtitled by CNN. "I can't watch," said Miss Butler watching. "I just can't."

A yellow cab held up the traffic outside and disgorged three businesswomen. They rushed in and stared at the screens until Kimberley Garland, 21, stopped stacking muffins and suggested they buy something.

Mesmerised, they ordered three iced teas and a raspberry brownie bar. The Clinton show had been on for two hours and they wanted to know if they had missed anything.

"You mean the downfall of our lovely country," said Kimberley, checking the watermark of a $50 bill. "I was grossed out by the newscasters describing what was going to be said, but it's not so bad so far." Kimberley had been in the store room for the cigar reference.

A police siren wailed past the door. The businesswomen debated whether Clinton could be arrested, concluding he could but wouldn't.

Other customers were slack-jawed with disbelief, mortified and serenely indifferent. Not good news for the president's pollsters, for this pocket of New York is young, hip and liberal, a Clinton constituency.

"I don't feel sorry for him at all," said Melissa, a screenwriter and a Democrat. "He's a slime bag and a liar."

Charles Flowers, 32, also a Democrat, was one of the few to ignore the screens and concentrated instead on editing a novelist's first draft.

"I voted for him but this is painful. I'm embarrassed for him, I'm embarrassed for the country and I wish it would go away. I don't even want to talk about it."

Nearby tables took up the cry. "Yeah, leave us alone. We're sick of it and sick of the media. It never stops."

This being the News Bar, just off Union Square, shelves of newspapers and magazines dotted the lime green walls. Men's workout magazines seemed to be more in demand that Newsweek. Neither the New York Times nor the New York Post had led with Clinton.

A bicycle courier with Ray Bans and tarantulas tattooed on his arms and legs insisted the following be written in capital letters: WE DON'T CARE.

A few customers applauded when the café's owner, Mr Kipperman, 44, put on a soul music CD over the silenced but subtitled Clinton. It was a Aaron Neville singing Lovely Lady In Blue followed by What Did I Do (To Deserve) You.

"We get the irony," said a stern-faced executive. "It's just not funny."

Hideki Yamamot, 33, wanted Mr Kipperman to bring back the broom handle and turn up the volume, but was too embarrassed to ask.

"I can still watch the facial expressions. I am surprised at their range. This time it isn't a controlled environment. Clinton looks very nervous. It's interesting, is it not?"

Not to Juno Kullan, 28, a delivery man setting down heavy cardboard boxes and turning to watch the screens. "My sisters love this shit but it does nothing for me. This should be between the president and his wife."

He took off his baseball cap to wipe his brow and noticed those customers who were transfixed. "It's none of our business," he declared before turning to Kimberley. "Hey, give me a bagel, butter cream, cheese jelly. To go. I'm getting out of here."

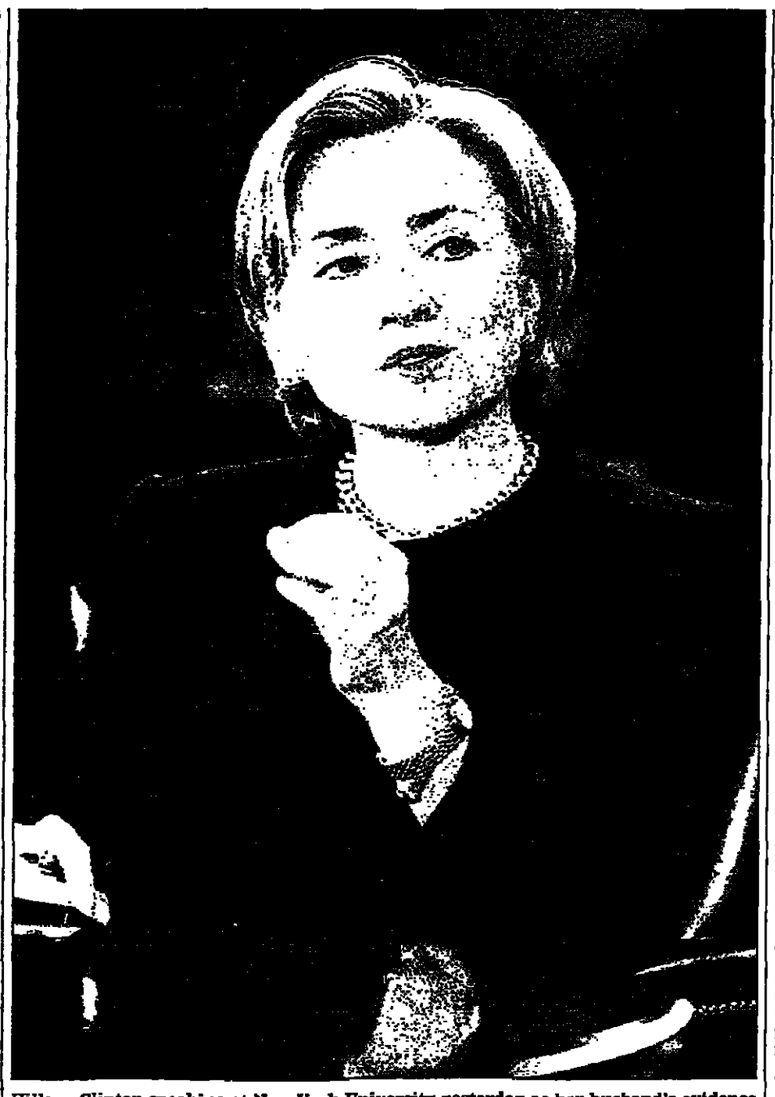
Tom Balsky, 55, a landscape artist, lifted his head from the New York Times at the threat of the volume being turned up. "Don't touch that dial. It's disgusting and I'm damned if I'm going to listen to it. If Clinton did something wrong then it should be determined by a court of law or something, but it should remain private.

"This stuff is gross and some people are lapping it up. There'll be videotape parties. People will watch for the spectacle once it's edited down. Four hours is too long."

Just then Clinton's eyebrows shot up. The sub-title read: "Sticking an object into the genitalia to arouse and gratify ..."

Melissa, still watching, gasped. "We're back to the cigar. Why would anyone, I mean how would you, I mean how could ... " Her voice trailed off. She was shocked.

Mr Kipperman grinned and reached for the broomstick, tipping Melissa into sudden resolution. "I am not watching. I am out of here." This time she meant it.



Hillary Clinton speaking at New York University yesterday as her husband's evidence about his sex life was being televised around the world PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF CHRISTENSEN

COAST TO COAST: By California's Highway 5, **Chris Reed** tests the mood

TRAVEL America is a huge highway truck-stop, a glittering oasis along the endless asphalt of Interstate 5, which connects the Mexican and Canadian borders and runs through Los Angeles. TA, as it is known, draws a crowd of lorry drivers, blue-collar long-distance commuters and travellers who seem to represent a heavy sampling of Clinton haters.

The only television set showing the prosecutors' sexually graphic questions and President Clinton's answering testimony yesterday was in the "drivers' lounge".

"There's no children in there," the manager, Pat Kelsey, said. "But I daren't risk it in the general areas. Parents might complain."

He pauses and adds: "Usually at this time they're showing Sesame Street; quite a change, huh?"

Only a small group of men watches the set desultorily, but my mention of Mr Clinton provokes guffaws and a selection of unprintable jokes. But one driver is serious. Felipe Olmos, who is carrying a load of machine parts northwards, is an American citizen but has never voted.

"What's the point?" he asks "None of them in Washington gives a shit about the working man. Clinton said he was bringing in 100 per cent medical insurance for everyone but nothing happened."

He explains that as a freelance driver he can afford only 80 per cent coverage for himself, his wife and three young children. At the moment he is driving "seven days a week" to pay a $3,000 bill (£1,750) for a minor ear operation on the youngest, aged six.

Outside, Linda Lee Rand is carrying an armful of boxed food and soft drinks to her two children and husband, Lance. Fixed to the boot lid of their Toyota is a metal fish sign, the badge of fundamentalist Christians.

"We're Baptists and so is Clinton, so he's not only disgraced the White House but also his church, and he should resign from both," she says. Mrs Rand is particularly incensed about Mr Clinton's veto of a ban on "partial birth abortions", a rarely performed late-term procedure used for a tiny group of women who would be endangered by a birth. She calls the president a "baby killer" and "fornicator".

Few black faces are visible at the truck-stop. One is Michelle Dermott, who sells cosmetics. She is pro-Clinton, like 90 per cent of American blacks. They feel the president has been ensnared in a brutal legal system, an experience that afflicts blacks more than any other group of Americans.

"He's trying to help working Americans and they're ganging up on him," she declares. "I'm not going to read the report [by the Independent counsel, Kenneth Starr] and I'm not watching his [Clinton's] evidence on television. What he did isn't worth all this. They're just out to get him."

American blacks believe Mr Clinton is basically on their side. Miss Dermott points to his appointment of African-Americans to political office.

Asked about his former membership of an all-white golf club in Arkansas, she snaps "I don't know nothing about that," and stalks off.



Tony Humbleyard at the High Court yesterday, where a judge launched an appeal for public help in finding his son Skye (right), whom he has not seen for 16 months
PHOTOGRAPH (left): JACK HILL

Aid sought to find boy snatched by mother



'Every month that goes by is another month of his childhood that I have missed. I don't know when, if ever, I will see him again'

Tony Humbleyard

Audrey Gillan

A JUDGE yesterday appealed for public help in tracking down a boy aged nine abducted by his peace activist mother, warning that the child might be at risk.

Skye Stream was taken away in May last year by Emma Westwood, aged 42, who was described in court as leading an alternative lifestyle, shortly after a court ordered he should live with his father, Tony Humbleyard.

Yesterday Mrs Justice Hogg at the High Court in London appealed to the public to help Mr Humbleyard find Skye in what was a "particularly upsetting" case.

"We are very concerned about his welfare," she said.

Mr Humbleyard, aged 36, works in Leeds as a community mediator.

Ms Westwood, of Oxford, an activist in the Ploughshares disarmament movement, had refused to let him see the child each time he travelled from Sheffield to Oxford.

She was last seen at her home on May 19, 1997, after a county court made the order against her, as she put Skye and some bags into a car.

After the hearing yesterday, Mr Humbleyard said that he felt despair.

"Every month that goes by is another month of his childhood that I have missed. I don't know when, if ever, I will see him again.

"I am afraid for his welfare. My only hope is of a member of the public coming forward and saying they have seen them."

In a statement, lawyers for Mr Humbleyard said that last year Judge Thomas Corrie decided that Ms Westwood was "causing the child severe emotional damage and that the father could meet the child's emotional needs".

The statement added: "The abduction was the last twist in a very sad tale in which the mother has defied the courts, flouted the law and escaped imprisonment."

Mr Humbleyard's solicitor, Philippa Sanderson, said that when the couple separated soon after Skye's birth, Ms Westwood refused to allow his father to see him.

"The father commenced court proceedings to enforce contact between him and the child," she said. "In December 1995 the reports were clear, stressing that Skye wanted to see his father and had a good relationship with him. The court welfare officer determined that the situation for Skye must be dire and that the mother was projecting her own feelings about the father on to Skye."

Mr Humbleyard said he could now not bear to listen to the BBC Radio 4 serial The Archers because of the resemblance between a storyline in it and his own situation.

The character Kate Aldridge, daughter of wealthy farmer Brian Aldridge, led an alternative lifestyle for a time and recently had a baby at the Glastonbury festival.

The father, her former boyfriend Roy Tucker, is fighting for the right to have access to the child after Kate refused him any contact.

Mr Humbleyard acknowledged that his son might not wish to be with him but believed it would be in his best interests. "I am sure he is very confused. He's a young lad being put in an impossible situation.

"My expectation is that when he does come to me it will take time to work all that out. Already he was exhibiting behavioural problems at school: he had an inability to get on with other children."

Top social services team aims to improve child care

Tough targets in drive for better deal for 51,000 youngsters

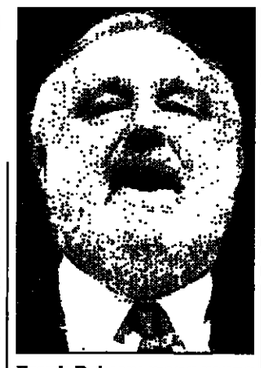
David Brindle and Amelia Gentleman

A TEAM of the brightest and best workers in children's services is to be assembled by the Government to spearhead its drive, launched yesterday, to deliver a new deal for youngsters in care.

The team, which will include experts seconded from education, health and the voluntary sector as well as social services, will aim to ensure that local authorities meet tough targets for improving the lot of the 51,000 children in care in England.

Ministers are warning that failure to hit the targets, part of a promised "top-to-bottom transformation" of children's services, will not be tolerated.

Paul Boateng, junior health minister responsible for social services, said: "The consequences will be grave.



Frank Dobson: many young people's plight 'a disgrace'

This government will not hesitate to act in order to protect children and other vulunerable people from the consequences of failure by their local authority social services department."

As the Guardian disclosed at the weekend, the Government is exerting control over services for children in care after inspections found that none of 27 sample authorities could guarantee safety and consistency.

Frank Dobson, Health Secretary, yesterday told authority leaders at a London conference that he was ordering a three-year action programme to be called Quality Protects, monitored centrally and funded — on a payment-by-results basis — with a "substantial" slice of the £3 billion he had won for social services under the comprehensive spending review.

Targets would include cutting the number of different placements experienced by children in care, raising their educational achievement and keeping in touch with them after they leave.

Too many young people were cut adrift at age 16, Mr Dobson said. "No shoulder to cry on. Nowhere to get your washing done ... No mother or father to touch for a tenner when you are skint. No place where you really belong. The list is endless. And it's a disgrace."

The programme is the first plank of a raft of measures to be announced this autumn to improve standards of children's services in particular and social services in general.

Much of the thrust will be directed at local councillors. Mr Boateng said he was "very often appalled" at their ignorance of services for which they were responsible.

"Social services committees don't always find themselves, quite frankly, with the profile they ought to have, with the degree of support and engagement from colleagues they ought to have, given the nature of their responsibilities."

The initiative received a cautious welcome from local authority groups, despite its clear implications of centralisation.

Rita Stringfellow, who chairs the social affairs and health committee of the Local Government Association, said authorities would need to know precise funding details as soon as possible in order to make effective decisions.

Roy Taylor, president of the Association of Directors of Social Services, said: "It's a pretty daunting agenda, with a vast array of objectives, and it's going to take a lot of hard work.

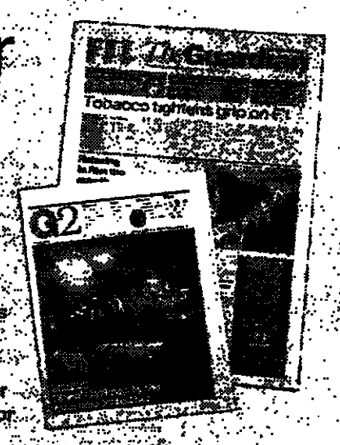
"We will need something to back us up so that, when push comes to shove, the education departments and health services are required to work with social services."

Al Fox, a council social worker in the west London borough of Ealing, which was, along with 27 other English social services authorities, harshly criticised for the services it offered, said he broadly welcomed the announcement.

"One of the most important things for social workers to do is to provide consistency for the children and help them build up a relationship of trust — this is very hard if staff are always leaving for new jobs," he said.

"One of the difficulties has been in recruiting and retaining high quality staff. There is a very high turnover throughout the profession — which goes back to questions of morale and pay."

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Cash reward to ditch 'red tape'

Peter Hetherington Regional Affairs Correspondent

GO-AHEAD councils were yesterday offered greater freedom to raise money locally in return for pushing through sweeping reforms of outdated administrative procedures.

Local Government Minister Hilary Armstrong said a network of proposed "beacon" authorities, offering the most efficient public services, would be rewarded with more independence from Whitehall.

She told a conference organised by the Local Government Network and the Guardian that the "beacons" would be selected for efficient political systems as well as for services offering the best value.

Although legislation will be needed for more extensive reforms, promised in a recent white paper, the minister said councils could immediately begin modernising committee systems and reviewing spending plans.

A new local government bill promised for inclusion in the forthcoming Queen's Speech will herald a cabinet system of local government headed by an elected mayor in some cases.

Although the Government has promised to end what it calls "crude and universal" capping of town hall budgets — with Whitehall still holding a reserve power of intervention — the minister warned that councils would have to be prudent.

With the Treasury now providing town halls with funding levels over a three-year period — the Government is responsible for about four-fifths of council spending — Ms Armstrong called for authorities to draw up local public service agreements. This would set the tone for a new relationship with local taxpayers and business.

The minister called for a blurring of an outdated divide between business and the town hall with a new relationship between councils and enterprise.

"We have to reignite the enthusiasm of people in local politics through a bonfire of the outdated, arcane committee system," she said.

Change had to be acceptable to the majority of local people. If it pushed through unpopular reforms, people could demand change in a local referendum.

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'Every month that goes by is another month of his childhood that I have missed. I don't know when, if ever, I will see him again'

Tony Humbleyard

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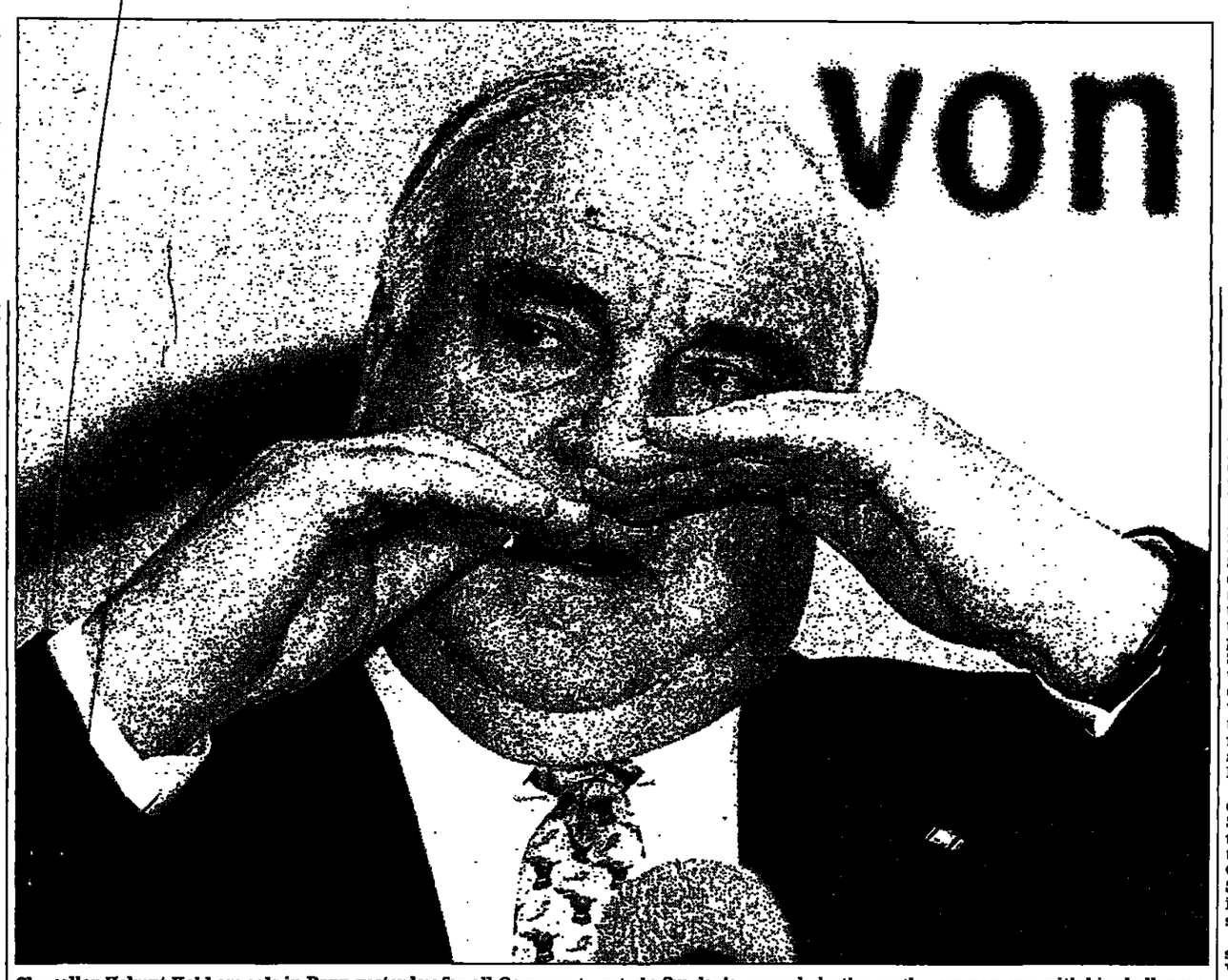
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Ian Traynor in Bonn sees the election turn from a one-horse race to a neck-and-neck finish

Polls put new life into Kohl campaign

Germany decides



Chancellor Helmut Kohl appeals in Bonn yesterday for all Germans to vote in Sunday's general election as the gap narrows with his challenger, Gerhard Schröder. The more people who vote, the more likely it is that Mr Kohl will retain his post PHOTOGRAPH: ARND WIEGMANN

CHANCELLOR Helmut Kohl, sensing that he can close the narrowing gap on his challenger, Gerhard Schröder and snatch a record fifth-term victory from the jaws of defeat, yesterday appealed to all of Germany's 60.5 million voters to turn out for the general election this weekend.

Opinion polls in the past few days have all indicated a neck-and-neck sprint to the finish on Sunday evening, with the chancellor's Christian Democrats pulling to within two percentage points of Mr Schröder's Social Democrats, after months in which the SPD seemed to be cruising to victory after 16 years in opposition.

In remarks published yesterday Mr Schröder acknowledged the "mobilising power" of the party Mr Kohl has led for 25 years. The chancellor clearly calculates that the more people who cast their ballots, the better his chances of remaining in power.

General elections in Germany usually attract turnouts of 80-90 per cent, and there is no evidence to suggest that fewer people will vote this time.

"We have every chance of winning," Mr Kohl said yesterday, describing this as "the decisive week" and claiming to detect a "palpable shift" in the public mood in his favour. All the opinion polls, regularly scorned by Mr Kohl, support his contention that the trend has turned in his favour, although pundits still believe it could be too late for a CDU recovery.

A survey of Frankfurt stock exchange traders published yesterday by the Düsseldorf business newspaper, Handelsblatt, tipped Mr Schröder over Mr Kohl to be the next chancellor by a margin of 71 to 26. Late last week the London bookmakers SSP also had Mr Schröder as the clear favourite, giving odds of 12/11 against for the Social Democrats as opposed to 7/2 on for Mr Kohl.

The Bonn political establishment, however, is in the grip of panic as the election race speeds up. An air of exhaustion and semi-defeatism is creeping into the Schröder camp as the consistent and comfortable opinion poll lead of the past few months bleeds away.

The Christian Democrats, by contrast, have gained a fresh spurt of energy as they sense they could yet hold on to the chancellorship.

The opinion polls are so close that the margin of error of three percentage points means their verdicts are less clear than ever. The polls also suggest that about 25 per cent of voters have yet to make up their minds, paving the way for a frantic last few days of campaigning to convert the don't knows.

Mr Kohl's opinion poll ratings have been at their lowest in the formerly communist eastern part of the country and he will focus his efforts there in the next few days in an attempt to make up the lost ground.

While the chancellor yesterday reiterated strongly that a Grand Coalition of the two big rival parties was bad for German democracy and would not be the outcome of Sunday's ballot, Mr Schröder kept his options open by stating that there would have to be a pact between the Social and Christian Democrats if dictated by the electoral arithmetic.

The Grand Coalition is the option favoured by many of those polled. Two out of five of the Frankfurt traders expected such a coalition to be the next government, while only one in five expected a continuation of the Kohl-led coalition of Christian Democrats and Liberal Free Democrats.

A Schröder-led centre-left cabinet of Social Democrats and environmentalist Greens was predicted by 37 per cent of those polled.

Under the complex dual ballot system of constituency voting and proportional representation, coalition viability will hinge on the performance of the small parties — the Greens, the Free Democrats and the PDS or former East German Communists — and whether they muster the 5 per cent needed to enter the Bundestag, or lower house.

Soap salesmen switch to selling voters a brand new chancellor

MICHAEL STECH is a newcomer to selling politics. Soap powder, cigarettes, men's magazines or insurance policies are much more familiar fare to the 39-year-old executive at Hamburg's KNSK-BBDO advertising agency. But his agency has been plugging a new brand name on German cinema and television screens and billboards: Gerhard Schröder.

Mr Schröder is being marketed as a beacon of hope for the future, and Mr Stech is convinced his agency's core message will make the difference between victory and defeat at the weekend. "The main point is to position Schröder as more modern than Kohl," says Mr Stech of the 17 posters and three video slots driving home the argument that Germany is ready for a change after 16 years of Christian Democrat rule.

The last Social Democrat chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, has denounced the election campaign as the most superficial ever in Germany. Thanks to Mr Stech and his colleagues, it is certainly the most televisual and image-driven.

The chancellor is being sold by the traditionalist Von Mannstein agency from the steel town of Solingen, which has marketed him for the past 16 years.

In terms of aesthetics and impact, the professional view is that the Schröder salesmen have the edge by courtesy of their soft-focus portraits of a Social Democrat leader at once pensive and active, firm but fair, funny as well as serious.

"Both the CDU and the SPD advertising is professional and well done," says Thomas Docter of the Association of German Business Advertisers. "But both campaigns are highly personalised, hinting at policies and programmes but not delivering detail."

The CDU posters are given over to Mr Kohl, declaring his leadership "World class for Germany" and urging a vote for "security instead of risk".

The CDU television spots seem more old-fashioned to a public used to fast-moving, computer-driven videos and television graphics. One has two provincial politicians talking policy to a room full of party officials. It provokes derision among advertising executives, but may well appeal to the conservative Christian Democrat heartland.

If Sunday's poll were decided by looks, Mr Schröder's telegenic charm and smart suits would easily defeat the ageing, overweight chancellor who refuses to join him in a televised debate.

But for the 20-30 per cent who appear not to know how they will vote on Sunday, posters may be the clincher.

"The posters are very simple, very direct, and very emotional," says Mr Docter. "And they hit every car-driver and every pedestrian. You can't avoid them."

Which is why SPD activists are saturating every town in Germany with four new posters featuring a beaming Mr Schröder proclaiming that Germany needs new ideas, new strength, new courage — and finally — a new chancellor.

Mr Stech says: "The aim is to show Schröder as someone who understands people's problems and who can solve them, and to project hope, confidence and optimism. But advertising won't win the election. All it can do is to make a little difference."

Swedish coalition plan reflects EU shift away from 'third way'

Martin Walker in Brussels



The former communist Left Party of Gudrun Schyman (right) and the Christian Democrats of Alf Svensson (left) both made gains in the Swedish elections PHOTOGRAPH: PICA

SWEDEN'S politicians and press called on the prime minister, Goran Persson, to resign yesterday, after his Social Democratic Party scraped just 36 per cent of the vote in general elections at the weekend.

The worst election showing by the SDP since 1921, combined with the surge of the Left Party which wants to leave the European Union and establish a 35-hour working week, throws into question the notion that Europe is moving into an era of Blairite moderate social democracy.

The political crisis forced Mr Persson to cancel his trip to New York to join Tony Blair, President Bill Clinton and the Italian prime minister, Romano Prodi, yesterday for a seminar on "the third way". His absence from the seminar is symbolic of the crumbling of an idea that looked so fashionable just weeks ago.

The "third way" of socially liberal and economically orthodox social democracy now appears to be only one of the three clear political directions Europe is poised to take.

The second direction is the traditional socialism of the French government, whose pledge to introduce a 35-hour week was the inspiration for Sweden's former communist Left Party.

This is the course promoted by Germany's Social Democrats under the leadership of Oskar LaFontaine, a friend and admirer of France's prime minister, Lionel Jospin, and finance minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn. Mr LaFontaine has won party commitment to undo modest welfare and tax reforms implemented by Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government.

The third course, which now appears to beckon both Germany and Sweden, is a grand coalition of the centre. In the run-up to general elections next Sunday, German opinion polls suggest such a governing pact between Social Democrats and Mr Kohl's Christian Democrats is what the voters have wanted all along.

In Sweden such a grand coalition was emerging as a possibility, with newspapers laying out the basis of an agreement between Mr Persson's SDP and the Moderate party of the former conservative prime minister Carl Bildt. Between them, the two parties won 60 per cent of the vote.

"A grand coalition agreement would have to include clear commitments to stay in Europe and move towards joining the single currency, to keep an open and free market economy and maintain tight budget discipline through an independent central bank," Hans Bergstrom, editor-in-chief of the influential daily Dagens Nyheter, said.

He said he feared the alternative to a grand coalition would be "a sharp shift to the left, to win the support of the Greens and Left Party".

Mr Bildt, who called on the prime minister to resign and leave it to the Speaker of the Riksdag to start negotiations about forming a new government, is no admirer of Mr Persson and they would not work easily together. Both men would find it difficult to sell such a coalition to their parties.

Despite the different national traditions, it is becoming possible to consider the European political scene as a whole, and a clear choice between Blairite centrism and French-style socialism appears to be emerging. In Sweden and Germany, the only defence against such a swing to the left would appear to be a grand coalition.

In both countries, that choice is being put to voters with renewed force after the global economic crisis came uncomfortably close, with the collapse of the Russian rouble and the prospect of hard times ahead.

From charlatan to saint in 30 years

John Hooper in Rome

IT IS an image seen everywhere in Italy — pinned up in shops and behind bars, stuck to the dashboards of taxis, glimpsed in the seconds it takes for a wallet to be opened and closed – a bearded, balding friar in the brown habit of his order. He died 30 years ago today yet remains one of the most fervently venerated – and intensely controversial — of 20th-century religious figures.

Catholics are split between those who see Padre Pio, as of a southern Italian peasant, as a saint and those who regard him as a charlatan. The Vatican has been equally uncertain.

Church authorities, having virtually anathematised him in his lifetime — Pope John XXIII banned him from all but the most basic of priestly duties — now regard him as just two steps away from sainthood. Last December a Vatican decree gave him the title of "venerable".

Often viewed as the embodiment of a reactionary, superstitious Mediterranean religiosity, Padre Pio nevertheless attracted followers from the Church's most liberal and intellectual wings. Graham Greene carried two photographs of him in his wallet.

Last weekend, some 50,000 people visited the village of San Giovanni Rotondo near Foggia for another anniversary. On September 20 1918 wounds appeared on Padre Pio's hands and feet and in his side. These were not to heal until his death.

It was one of some 300 recorded cases of "stigmata" — wounds similar to Christ's from crucifixion. For half a century, the Franciscan friar lost the equivalent of a glass of blood a day. When he died, his stigmata closed up leaving no visible trace.

Soon Padre Pio could be named "blessed". Then proof of only one miracle will make him a saint. "Another miracle won't be a problem," the head of the friary at San Giovanni Rotondo, Father Gian Maria Cocomazzi, said yesterday.

In his lifetime Padre Pio was credited with a range of supernatural achievements, from healing the terminally ill to appearing simultaneously in places hundreds of miles apart.

Though some high in the Church are reluctant to see him canonised, popular support is immense. More than a million people a year visit his tomb.

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Mahathir cracks down on protests



Nick Hopkins and agencies in Kuala Lumpur

POLICE in Malaysia clashed with anti-government protesters for the second day running yesterday shortly before the Queen closed the Commonwealth Games.

Authorities used a sweeping law to round up allies of the sacked finance minister and deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim, after riot police repeatedly fired water cannon and tear gas at several thousand demonstrators.

They had converged on a courthouse in central Kuala Lumpur where they expected Mr Anwar to be charged, after being investigated for sodomy and corruption. He never appeared in court.

It took police brandishing shields more than three hours to disperse the protesters and seal off a large swath of the capital, including Merdeka Square where 30,000 demonstrators had congregated with Mr Anwar on Sunday.

The arrest of Mr Anwar on Sunday night under the Internal Security Act (ISA), followed by the rounding up of at least five political leaders and dozens of protesters, reflected the determination of the prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad, to nip the reform movement in the bud.

But the street protests clearly caught the government by surprise. "We never expected this to happen," said one diplomat.

Police also confirmed that the youth wing leader of the ruling United Malays National Organisation, Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, and four leaders of the Islamic Youth Movement of Malaysia, had been arrested.

Mr Anwar's wife said yesterday that she had not heard from her husband since he was arrested and that she feared for his life.

The protests took place on the final day of the games, which were intended to showcase Malaysia's economic development.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday bluntly told Dr Mahathir that the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh must be kept out of the country's political crisis.

He said the security of the Queen was "paramount".

Although the royal party is not thought to be in any danger, the atmosphere in the capital is tense, and demonstrators snubbed the Queen's cortège when it passed them yesterday. The games' closing ceremony at the National Stadium passed peacefully.

Diplomatic relations were further strained when broadcasters, including the BBC and ITN, discovered their reports were being censored by the Malaysian authorities.

Footage of the clashes between police and protesters demanding the resignation of Dr Mahathir was blacked out by hackers who intercepted transmissions bound for a satellite link.

Both Buckingham Palace and the Foreign Office said they were concerned about the censorship, and Mr Cook intervened to "take it up with the Malaysian authorities" — diplomatic speak for demanding an end to the jamming.

Last night Malaysian officials said the tampering would stop, but subsequent bulletins were affected.

Mr Cook's decision to stay with the royals until tomorrow rather than go to New York for a United Nations General Assembly meeting was vindicated. He met Dr Mahathir yesterday for 45 minutes at Carcosa hotel, where the royal party is staying.

Mr Cook's spokesman said the meeting with Dr Mahathir had been "constructive". He said: "They discussed the state visit and the importance of its success, and the importance that it should not be caught up in the internal controversy."

The BBC realised its reports were being censored when journalists tried to send fresh footage of Sunday night's riots yesterday. It discovered the reports were being intercepted at a "relay station" in Malaysia which transmits the coverage to Britain via satellite.

"Our pictures are coming up with holes in them, which means that the reports are unusable," a BBC source said. "Someone is spying on them and deleting anything embarrassing to the government."

Leader comment, page 11; Commonwealth Games, page 15



Malaysian police in Kuala Lumpur (above) grapple yesterday with a supporter of the former deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim, who was arrested at his home (right). Protesters had gathered outside a court where Mr Anwar was expected to be charged after being under investigation for sodomy and corruption

PHOTOGRAPHS: GOH CHAI HIN/SIN CHEW JIT POH

Arrested her voices the unthinkable

Seth Mydans reports from Kuala Lumpur on the crisis in the Asian tiger

AFTER a weekend of lurid headlines and protests, Anwar Ibrahim was arrested by police who kicked down the door of his house while he talked to reporters.

They gave him an hour to pack his clothes, eat his dinner and say goodbye to his family. He was driven away in a white van, surrounded by dozens of red-helmeted officers, as his supporters ran alongside shouting, "God is great!".

Mr Anwar's arrest followed his sacking earlier this month as deputy prime minister and heir apparent to the prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir, aged 72, whose authority is rarely challenged, has had the upper hand throughout. But the protests and arrest have shaken Malaysia's reputation for stability, overturned one of Asia's most solid prospects for succession and removed a standard-bearer of a more liberal generation of leaders.

Since his sacking, Mr Anwar, aged 51, has uncovered a broad and formerly voiceless discontent. He drew large and enthusiastic crowds last week that raised the cry of *reformasi* (reform) — the slogan of the demonstrators who helped oust President Suharto of Indonesia in May.

Dr Mahathir's leadership is not thought to be threatened, but an official of the governing party, the United Malays National Organisation, warned that Mr Anwar's campaign "could create chaos and spark a revolution, which would eventually lead to anarchy".

Dr Mahathir's word has been law for decades, and many Malaysians seem to believe the allegations against Mr Anwar.

But as in Indonesia, the economy is the wild card. Even as he was moving against Mr Anwar, who had promoted tight fiscal policies in tune with the International Monetary Fund, Dr Mahathir took the risky step of curbing trading in the currency, the ringgit, and cutting the country off from the global financial system.

The exchange rate immediately stabilised, currency flowed back into the economy, and the stock market rose. But economic analysts said those gains might be short-lived and that Malaysia could in a few months plunge back into a worse decline.

Mr Anwar, who has no independent organisation and is facing jail, seem to have little chance of capitalising on political changes. From the start he said he was certain he would be arrested. But nor does he have much to lose. Mr Anwar has roused his supporters with statements such as "Dr Mahathir has lost the people's support", "the time has come for him to step down", and "my greatest sin was to challenge Dr Mahathir — he's old, he's senile".

The vivid language was far from one-sided. Mr Anwar's dismissal followed the publication of a Malaysian-style Starr report entitled Fifty Reasons Anwar Cannot Become Prime Minister. It contained allegations of sexual high jinks with men and women, as well as sedition, abuse of power and bribery.

Sunday's headlines — including "We Were Sodomised" and "They Allowed Themselves to Be Sodomised by Anwar" — repeated the allegation. The newspapers said two male associates had confessed to having sex with Mr Anwar and were each sentenced on Saturday to six months in prison.

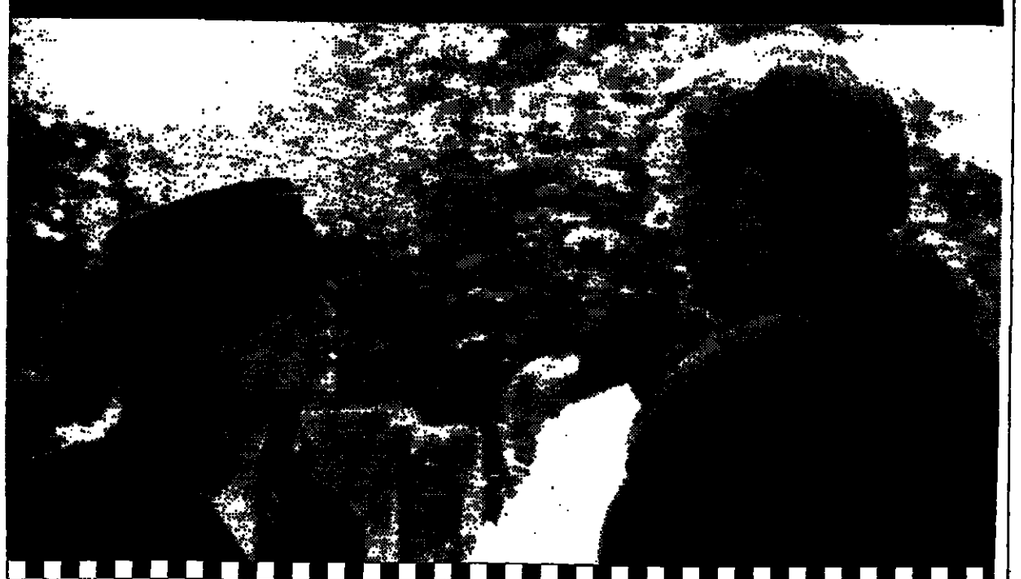
Mr Anwar, who is married with six children and is known as a devout Muslim, denies the accusations.

He said his friends had been tortured, on Dr Mahathir's orders, into making false confessions, and accused security forces of using Gestapo and Israeli secret-police methods.

The inspector general of police, Abdul Raheem Noor, said: "We can no longer tolerate it when he accuses us of being similar to Israel. If he had accused us of being similar to pirates, we could accept that." — *New York Times.*

AT THE FUNERAL OF SOMEONE YOU'VE KILLED

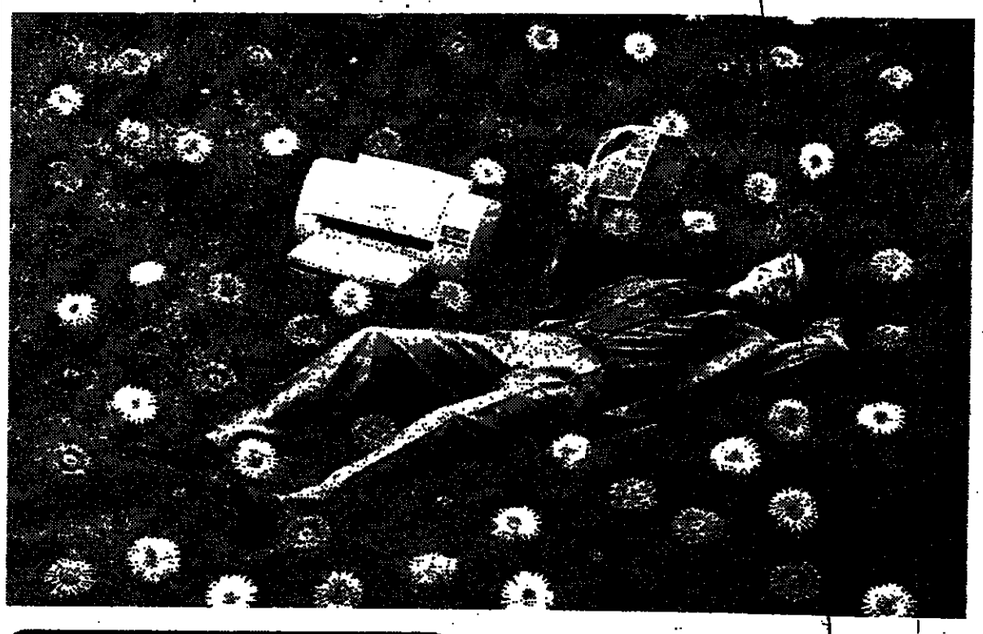
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Florence Griffith Joyner

Drama, dazzle and the doubt

FLORENCE Griffith Joyner, who has died aged 38 from heart seizure in Mission Viejo, California, brought the dazzle of show business to the sprinting world with her six-inch, coloured finger-nails, track outfits that were equally stunning and revealing, and sprinting power which was awesome. At the Olympic Games of 1988 in Seoul, she won two gold and one silver medals, and she dies with the world 100 metres and 200 metres records, both set that year, standing to her name.

Yet her achievements were accompanied by a suspicion that this was not all natural talent exploding down the track. Her muscular form and husky voice were the trade marks of steroid users, and the doubts were further fuelled when she announced her retirement abruptly in February 1989, just as mandatory random drug-testing was about to be introduced.

One of her greatest achievements, in the 200 metres in Seoul, had the unfortunate juxtaposition that about the time she was running 21.34 seconds — to slice 37 hundredths off the world mark she had achieved 90 minutes earlier — Ben Johnson was on a plane back to Canada, having been positively tested for drugs after his triumph in the men's 100 metres. Griffith Joyner passed all her drug tests without a smudge on her reputation, but the margin of her victories and her improvement left nagging doubts among many of her rivals.

The most awesome moment of her career came at the US trials that year, in a qualifying heat for the 100 metres, where she ran 10.47 seconds, obliterating Evelyn Ashford's mark of 10.84 seconds, set four years previously. Her time surpassed the men's national records at the time of several countries, including New Zealand and Norway. It was the cold statistic that, across seven years, the record had been improved by only 12 hundredths of a second which fuelled the doubting minds, coupled with the evidence that her sprinting progress had been previously less explosive.

After a time of 10.99 seconds in 1984, when she won the 200 metres silver medal in the Olympic Games at Los Angeles, she faded to



She passed all her drug tests without a smudge on her reputation, but the margin of her victories left nagging doubts among her rivals

times of 11 plus seconds in the following years before her astonishing breakthrough in 1987. That was the year she adopted the weight-training programme and the starting technique of another world sprinting star, which she believed was a key to her success; the star was Ben Johnson. Certainly, there was vast improvement in her starting, for in her 100 metres victory in Seoul her reaction time to the starter's pistol was 0.131 seconds, not only far superior to her rivals but to that of Johnson too.

Her victories in the US Olympic trials at Indianapolis were one of the high points in athletic achievement for she ran the three fastest times for the 100 metres ever achieved by a woman, and also set a US record for the 200 metres.

But it was not only the running which brought attention. Those long, curled, coloured finger-nails brought cameramen to distraction — a shot of them or her stunning outfits. At that meeting she ran eight races in eight different outfits and admitted that the one she wore in her final race — a white silky flimsy affair — was her negligee. "I'm tired," she said, which must have caused orgasms among advertising agencies. At Seoul, when her rivals looked in disbelief at her times and the margin of her victories in the 100 metres, 200 metres and the four by 400 metres relay — where she ran her leg in 48.07 seconds — she retorted that it was through "hard work and dedication".

Florence Griffith Joyner was the seventh of 11 children of an electrical technician and a teacher. She grew up in Watts, Los Angeles, and was educated at Jordan High School, graduating in 1978. She attended Cal State, Los Angeles, for two years, then graduated from UCLA in 1983 with a degree in psychology. She started running at the age of seven and competed until 1979, when she had to give up her college career to support her family.

A sprint coach, Bob Kersee, brought her back to the sport two years later, and she resumed her education at UCLA and won a place in the US team for the World Championships in Helsinki in 1983. The following year she took the silver in the Olympic 200 metres in Los Angeles, when those finger-nails first appeared on the glossy magazine covers.

Her career seemed to stick in a series of second places until her marriage to the Olympic triple jump champoin of 1984, Al Joyner, and it was under his tuition — and watching the video tapes of Ben Johnson's starts — that she etched out a new and spectacular career.

She soon acquired the nickname "Flojo", largely because of a controversy surrounding one of those record-breaking performances, where the wind gauge for the 100 metres registered zero while one close by for the long-jump registered more than four metres per second.

After her retirement she served as co-chairman of the US President's Council on Physical Fitness and began designing and modelling clothes, working with children both through a sports development programme and a series of books.

In 1996 she suffered a seizure while flying from California to St Louis, and spent a day in hospital with her family requesting that no other details of her condition be released.

She is survived by her husband and their daughter.

John Rodda

Florence Griffith Joyner, athlete, born December 21, 1959; died September 21, 1998



Flojo working . . . leaping to victory at the 1988 Seoul Olympics PHOTO: STEVE POWELL

Marco Rizo Ayala

Classics out of Cuba

OSCAR Hijuelos's *The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love* begins at a recording of the 1950s American sitcom *I Love Lucy*; two struggling Cuban musicians are making a guest appearance. There were indeed two Cuban-born musicians connected to the show, but neither was struggling. One was Lucille Ball's on-and-off-screen husband Desi Arnaz, the other was his friend, the pianist and composer Marco Rizo Ayala, who has died aged 77. Rizo composed the *I Love Lucy* signature tune.

It was Rizo who had been contacted by Hijuelos when the author was researching his 1989 Pulitzer-winning novel. Rizo was anchored in the close-knit community of musicians who left Cuba for New York before the Castro revolution in 1959. His friends included Mario Bauza, the pioneer — with Machito's Orchestra — of Latin American big band jazz, and the original "Mambo King", percussionist Tito Puente.

Rizo never became a household name, even though *I Love Lucy* took him into American homes for seven years. Modest and scholarly, he found success through Cuban classical piano music, film soundtracks and show tunes. As a performer and composer of classical music, he didn't need Hollywood.

Rizo was heavily influenced by the Afro-Cuban music he had been born into, and the piano style and compositions of Cuba's great composer, his mentor and friend Ernesto Lecuona. As for him and Hijuelos — who called him "an old world Cuban gentleman — they became close friends.

Marco Rizo was a child prodigy, growing up with Arnaz in Santiago de Cuba. He was taught to play piano and to improvise by his father, who was lead flautist with the local symphony orchestra, and the force behind the Rizo Ayala jazz band. In 1938 he became pianist with the Havana Philharmonic Orchestra, and two years later won a scholarship to New York's Juilliard School of Music.

After the second world war, as the mambo and chachacha crazes swept the United States and Europe, Rizo joined Arnaz, who had launched the conga and was one of the most popular US Latin American performers. He became pianist and arranger in Arnaz's touring orchestra until 1950, when Ball and Arnaz started work on the sitcom.

Hijuelos called him 'an old-world Cuban gentleman'

A year later, when *I Love Lucy* was launched, Marco Rizo featured, albeit uncredited, as the shy, smiling pianist and leader of the Arnaz orchestra. Off screen, he wrote scores and continued his studies at the University of California under such visiting tutors as Stravinsky and Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco. In 1958 he became director of the CBS staff orchestra.

Classical piano music was Rizo's passion. He produced 30 albums, including his own compositions such as *Suite Espanola* and *Danzas Cubanas*. In 1963, Lecuona told Rizo that he was the greatest interpreter of his music and urged him to record his piano work. Three decades later he released *Ernesto Lecuona, Musical Legacy*.

At the time of his death Rizo was writing what Hijuelos described as "an autobiographical sketch, a narrative with a history of Cuban music". He was also educating New York Hispanic schoolchildren about their musical heritage, and playing free concerts with his Latin Jazz Quartet. He was married twice and is survived by his son.

Sue Steward

Marco Rizo Ayala, composer and musician, born November 30, 1920; died September 8, 1998

A Country Diary

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: The pair of swans on the pond beside the village green at Frampton-on-Severn paddled easily across the surface to show us their cygnets — three well-grown young ones in the typical brown colour of their immature state. They were probably hoping for some crumbs, but having arrived on bicycles after an eight-mile ride we were in no position to satisfy their aspirations. I wondered how many cygnets they had started with this year; three well-grown at five or six months may well be the survivors of a larger clutch.

The swans nest so close to passing human traffic, and with so little protection, that I am always fearful they will be subject to the sort of casual vandalism that late-night ejectees from the nearby pub might thoughtlessly offer. But year on year they successfully rear some young, so they may well have thought the site out better than I have.

We rode back along the canal bank to the Slimbridge crossing point. I thought how much this facility has changed over the 10 years we have been here. It was always an attractive bike-ride along the level ground of the towpath, but the British Waterways notices used to make it as off-putting to the cyclist as possible. A licence was required to ride the path; it was available only from a distant address; and payment could only be made in a difficult form. Needless to say, we simply ignored these unhelpful intimations, but a lot of law-abiding citizens were deterred. Now welcoming signs tell you it is part of the grand plan for an integrated long-distance ride.

COLIN LUCKHURST

André Fougeron

France's painter at the Party

THE years after 1945 were great for the French Communist Party (PCF). It had proved its patriotism in the Resistance and it demonstrated its political importance by winning more than a quarter of the electorate. But it also claimed to be "le parti de l'intelligence française" and "the party of culture." It bandied great names about — such as Louis Aragon and Else Triolet, Paul Eluard, Picasso, Juliot-Curie and Fernand Léger. But in October 1944, when the Direction Nationale des Intellectuels Communistes was announced, it included the name of André Fougeron, not then widely known.

Fougeron, who has died aged 84, was to become the PCF's official artist, for many, the only artist. His importance arose in the post-Liberation debate, about France's cultural identity. There was the belief that art should be directed towards the population as a whole and that there should be a real French School of Art, distinct from the pre-war Ecole de Paris that consisted of many artists, some of whom were not French and who were usually producing paintings that were incomprehensible to ordinary people. Hence the principle was established that art should be socially realist and politically committed.

Fougeron became the model of the realist and a superb practitioner of art that is accesssible to all. Ordinary PCF members claimed that he was the greatest living French artist. The sight of Parisian working-class women at the fish market, the spectacle of the dead miner, the desolation of the northern coalfields, these pictures, confrontations of society, the geometry of the industrial world, spoke directly to a large public and were a starting point for those who wanted to make changes.

Fougeron did not see himself simply as a party agent. The only time that I met him he said his task was to illustrate the thinking and feeling of ordinary people. He replied to critics labelling him an "official" painter that he was proud to be in the tradition of David. Told that his paintings were too grim, he retorted that you did not paint butterflies when you were down a mine.

Fougeron was a stonemason's son, born in Paris. In 1935 he lost his job at Renault, but having had drawing lessons he went to the left-wing Maison de la Culture. There he showed considerable talent. His subject was the Spanish civil war and his *l'Espagne martyre* was praised by Jean Cassou, the future director of the Museum of Modern Art.

HE joined the PCF in 1939, and after being demobilised, following the fall of France, he worked with the Front National des Arts, which bought together many patriotic artists. His studio served as a cover for resistance activities and he helped in the printing of clandestine publications, such as Les Lettres Françaises.

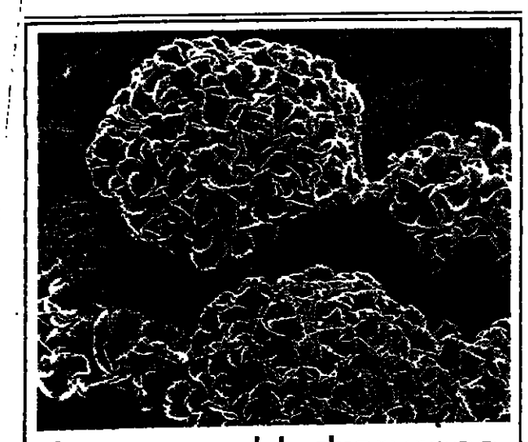
It is usually said that the downfall of Fougeron from his privileged position in the party was caused by the disapproval of Aragon, who had earlier been the most fulsome in his praise. But in 1949 the PCF newspaper L'Humanité suppressed an editorial by Aragon supporting Picasso, and instead praised Fougeron. In 1953, on Stalin's death, Aragon published Picasso's portrait of him. In L'Humanité, Fougeron rejected this as misjudged and inexact. "We must call a halt to Monsieur Fougeron," was Aragon's rejoinder. Fougeron's explicitly anti-American painting, bitterly entitled *Civilisation Atlantique*, was condemned by Aragon, both for its apparent return to surrealism and for its narrow pre-occupations.

But the real reason for Fougeron's decline in importance was given many years later in Les Lettres Françaises. Painting could no longer play the social role that it had in the past. The mass media had replaced the artist for the collectivity; the artist existed for the individual and L'Humanité Dimanche devoted many pages to the paintings of Georges De La Tour.

Fougeron continued to paint, though his success was at first limited to eastern Europe. But in the 1980s he enjoyed something of a revival. He continued to experiment, using collages and working with photographers. Whilst the Centre Pompidou maintained a certain reserve about his work, exhibitions at the Barbican, London, in 1982 and in Saint-Etienne in 1988 gave an opportunity to admire his considerable talent and to appreciate his legacy. His wife, Henriette Marécat, died in 1992. His three sons survive him.

Douglas Johnson

André Fougeron, artist, born October 1, 1913; died September 10, 1998



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Letter

Warren Mitchell writes: Pat Hayes (*Obituary, September 21*) was not only a great actress. There were her wonderfully improbable, baby-doll overtures to Alf Garnett, but it is also worth recalling that most of the cast, technicians, and the writer of *Till Death* and *In Sickness* were of the broad left. Pat took us on, fighting her — and Mrs Thatcher's — corner. "You're all fucking daft," she yelled, then clapped her hand guiltily over her mouth. "I'm so sorry" she said. "I never said 'fuck' till I joined the Royal Shakespeare Company."

Birthdays

Dr Dannie Abse, physician and poet, 75; **John Bird**, actor and playwright, 62; **John Caird**, stage director, 50; **Dr David Drewry**, director-general, British Council, 51; **Dr Liam Fox**, Conservative MP, 37; **Gina Fratini**, fashion designer, 67; **Colin Graham**, opera director, 67; **Prof Sir Frederick Holliday**, chairman, Northumbrian Water, 63; **Joan Jett**, rock singer, 40; **Deborah Lavin**, principal, Trevelyan College, Durham, 59; **Ruth Lea**, head of policy, Institute of Directors, 51; **Prof Norbert Lynton**, art historian, 71; **Catherine Oxenberg**, actress, 37; **Mary Reveley**, racehorse trainer, 58; **John Tomlinson**, operatic bass, 52; **Fay Weldon**, author, 67; **Lord (George) Younger**, chairman, Royal Bank of Scotland, 67.

Richard White

A lawyer for the people

MANY of the arguments deployed by Richard White, who has committed suicide at the age of 58, have become the common currency of the legal services debate. He succeeded in changing perspectives and ingrained attitudes within the Lord Chancellor's Department. During his career he was a pressure group activist — and a founder of the Legal Action Group (LAG) — and later a senior civil servant who played a key role in developing legal services and civil court procedure.

In 1974 we were both recruited to advise the new Lord Chancellor, and Richard was asked to produce a major report on legal services. He set about his task with typical vigour, helping to secure seed money to prop up law centres and brokering their acceptance by local practitioners.

Richard never ceased to complain about the subsequent decision not to publish his report, which contained criticisms of the role of the Law Society in managing the statutory legal aid scheme. Yet he took satisfaction from subsequent developments, especially in relation to the advice sector, which he saw as stemming from his strategy.

White was the son of a Bank of England official. He had a conventional middle-class education, qualifying as a solicitor with the city firm, Freshfields. He joined Birmingham University as a law lecturer, at the time when Gordon Borrie was establishing the Institute of Judicial Administration there. It was the birth of socio-legal studies and Richard was the main author of a survey which exposed the lack of adequate legal services for ordinary people in Birmingham. He also penned an important essay on the philosophical problems inherent in the notion of unmet legal need. As a member of the LAG's original management committee, he helped to devise a consumer oriented, rights-based strategy forging an alliance between local legal and advice services.

After writing his report he remained in the Lord Chancellor's Department, where he had a distinguished career in the court business and international departments. He was secretary to the Chancery Review Body and the Civil Justice Review, both of which paved the way for Lord Woolf's reforms of civil justice. His drafting skill was allied to strategic vision and a determination to drive through reforms which extended legal services and cheapened the cost of going to law.

Richard could be a difficult, and sometimes impossible, person with whom to work, the result of intellectual impatience on his part. But he could be equally generous and considerate, and free with his time. He was a devout Roman Catholic, and his outside interests ranged from beagling in the Midlands to a love of Sicily.

The last few years were particularly difficult for him. All his close relatives had died or moved away. It became dangerous for him to continue to take the drugs which had controlled his almost lifelong depressive illness. Before his death he had moved into a new house and seemed something of his old self, relishing his part in the passage of the human rights bill and attending the LAG's 25th birthday celebrations.



White . . . strategic vision

Cyril Glasser

Richard White, civil servant and legal services activist, born August 9, 1939; died August 2, 1998

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

AN ARTICLE on pages 6 and 7, G2, September 17, headed, The millionairess with a touch of silk, referred to the inclusion of Elizabeth Gloster as the only woman in a list naming 15 QCs who "grossed more than £1 million in fees", and in a further list placing her among "the top 10 stars at the Bar". Both lists appear in Chambers and Partners' Guide to the Legal Profession, 1998-99, to whom a credit was originally made but then lost in the editing. Sorry.

IN THE Nationwide roundup, page 4, Sport, yesterday, there was a reference to a Lancashire derby both in the First Division and the Second Division. Neither was correct. Bury versus Tranmere was not a Lancashire derby (Tranmere is a Merseyside team from the Wirral). Wigan versus Macclesfield was also a Guardian own goal; Macclesfield is in Cheshire.

LISA, the daughter of Patrick Sargent referred to in his obituary on page 21, September 19, is the daughter of his first wife, Olive, and not of his second wife. Apologies.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Readers may contact the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: readers@guardian.co.uk

Marco Rizo Ayala, composer and musician, born November 30, 1920; died September 8, 1998

Death Notices

DYSON. Rawd. Prof. Anthony Oakley, died 19.9.98 Husband of Edwina and father of Ben and Julian. Private funeral No flowers please; donations if desired to Amnesty International. Details of a memorial service to be announced.

LEACH. John Malcolm, aged 82, died 19th September, peacefully at home. Loving husband of Peggy (dec 24/11/93) and wonderful father and grandfather to Jonathon, Malcolm, Alisdair and Amy. Nursed with incomparable gentleness and kindness by his much loved daugher-in-law Carole. 'They ask me where I've been, and what I've done and seen. But what can I reply, who know it wasn't I, but someone just like me, who went across the sea'.

McDERMOTT. Terence John M.Sc. ARCS Physicist and mathematician of Llantrisant, South Wales, Crolly, Co Donegal and Skibbereen, Co. Cork. Terry died aged 78 on September 20th 1998 in Marymount Hospice, Cork City. He was above all a kind and gentle man who will be greatly missed by his wife Margery and all who knew him. Cremation will take place privately in Dublin.

ROSS. Morris, 86 years. Died in hospital on September 17th. He will be sorely missed by his family and many friends. Cremation 3pm, Wednesday 23rd September at Golders Green Crematorium.

To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4707 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

THE Diary takes a dim view of the accusations that Labour has deliberately sent NEC ballot papers to lapsed members of the party. New Labour may be a little authoritarian — the magazine Red Pepper has been banned from conference, you will recall, because of previous heckling by Euro MP Hugh Kerr — but deceitful it would never be, least of all to cover up a dramatic decline in membership. This is not to suggest, of course, that it is above perfectly legitimate lobbying, and Mrs D Hendry of Harlow has received a reminder for renewal of membership. Attached to it is one of those post-it notes from Mr Tony Blair exclaiming: "Don't forget to vote in the NEC ballot!" Alas, Too late. Earlier in the week, Mrs Hendry, although a lapsed member, sent off the ballot paper she had received. For the record, she voted for the left wing grassroots alliance slate. Perhaps not a huge surprise. Mrs Hendry is Hugh Kerr's wife.

I AM intrigued by BBC radio's policy on conflict of interest. Melvyn Bragg was sacked from Start the Week on the grounds that being a Labour peer would compromise his impartiality on the programme. Meanwhile, Richard Littlejohn continues to present a football phone-in on Radio 5 Live, discussing club takeovers at length, despite a) being an employee of BSkyB; and 2) heading a consortium attempting to gain control of Tottenham Hotspur. Could anyone explain this to me? And could anyone, in strictest sooth, make it up?

WHILE on the subject, hats off to Mihir Bose, who reports in the Sunday Times how he broke the news of Richard's attempted takeover there last week. In fact, the story appeared here first on July 23. I don't like to boast, but not for nothing is the Diary's official strapline "the column you know you can ignore".

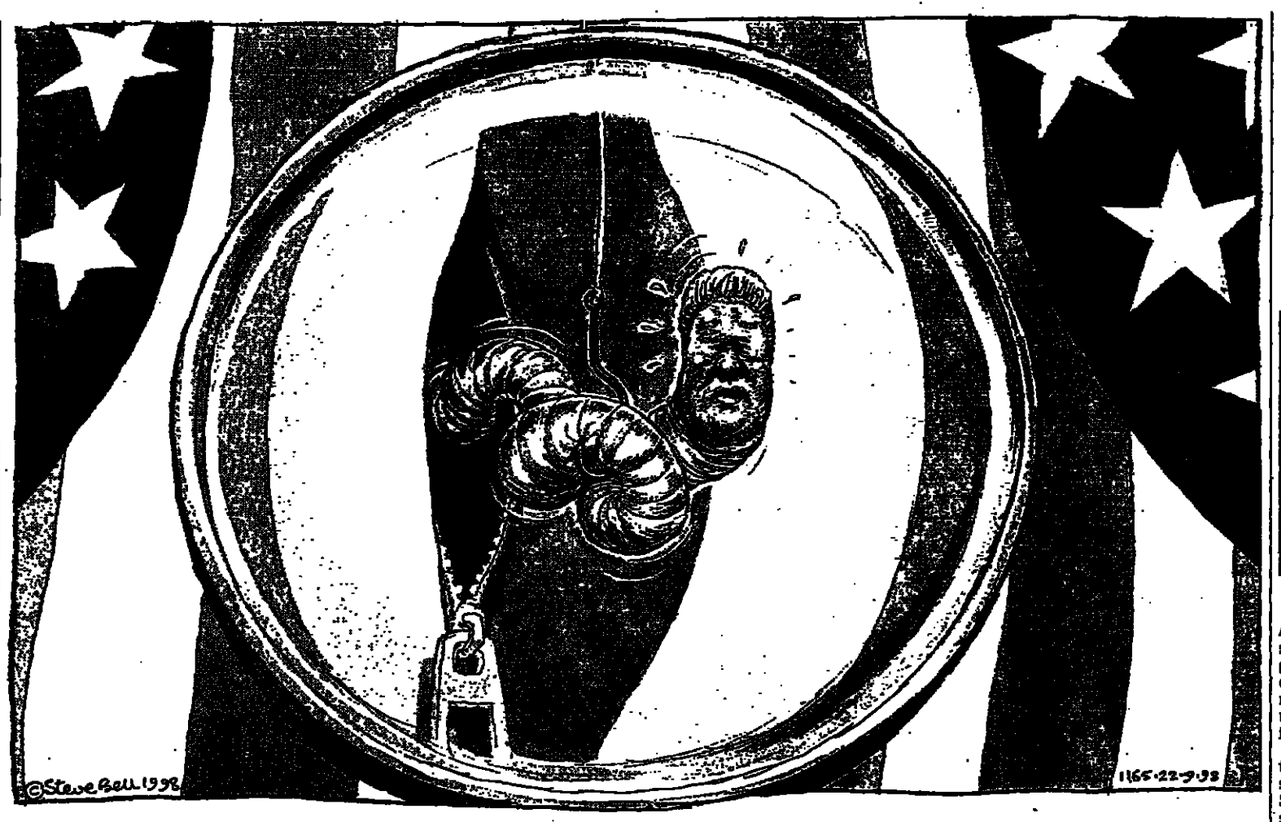
A RELATIVE of Betty Tucker calls to relay her thanks for publishing the picture of our favourite nonagenarian reader toasting her 95th birthday with Diary champagne. Your courtesy is appreciated, Mrs Tucker, but



it is we who should thank you.

WITH William Hague striving to move the Tory conference away from the nationalistic Land of Hope and Glory image, he will appreciate the support from his friend and ally Little Alan Duncan. In his local newspaper column, the Rutland MP recalls watching the Last Night of the Proms on TV. "When the orchestra played Rule Britannia, Pomp and Circumstance and God Save the Queen, I stood up in my living room and sang," he writes. "Britannia may no longer rule the waves, but Britain should never be the slaves of a European bureaucracy . . . And we must remember as the Battle of Britain approaches. . ." Doesn't it bring a lump to the throat? What an asset Little Alan is.

AT time of writing, the free kettle promised by inaugural Diary sponsor Tefal has yet to arrive. We are assured that this oversight will be corrected at once. Were that kettle not to arrive on my desk by 4pm today, we might feel obliged to review our previously favourable opinion of the new stainless steel, cordless Vitesse (£37.99). Meanwhile, high level discussions continue with potential sponsor Macallan, whose whisky is such a joy (especially the very old malts).



Nasty dose of contagion

Paul Foot



A NEW word has been thought up by the Third Way specialists on both sides of the Atlantic: contagion. It is contagion which is causing all the trouble in free market economies which until recently were doing frightfully well.

Contagion has devastated the Far East, laid waste to Russia and may now spread to South America. This talk is a sophisticated refinement of Old Labour language. In past Labour governments, capitalist crisis was blamed on the weather or the elements.

Harold Wilson claimed he was "blown off course". Writing of his time as Chancellor after 1964, James Callaghan said it was "like swimming in a heavy sea". Storms, heavy seas and contagions have this in common: they can't be helped. There's nothing much to do in a storm or during a contagion but hold your breath and pray.

Sympathising with sacked constituents, Tony Blair told them they were victims of the market — too many semi-conductors were being produced, so obviously production had to be cut down. "We can't alter the market," he explained, echoing the slightly more pugnacious "you can't buck the market" patented by Blair's heroine, Margaret Thatcher.

In those five words Blair dispensed with 100 years of social democracy, whose central proposition was that Labour governments, in the interests of the people who elect them, can and should buck the market. State health, state education, state pensions are all examples of altering/bucking the market. No pure market system worth its salt would contemplate any of them. Social democratic theory and Labour governments came into existence because the market system created grotesque inequalities, vast piles of wealth for a greedy and ruthless minority, unemployment sickness and poverty for the majority — and because that system should and could be changed.

Instead of a "free" market which sends resources careering chaotically after that which appears to be profitable in the short term (semi-conductors for instance), the economy should be planned. Instead of inequality, government should tax and legislate for equality. Similarly, government should take some of the economic power from irresponsible corporations and spread it democratically among their electors. Such was the inspiration of British social democratic leaders when they first challenged the old order. When those leaders became Prime Ministers they set off enthusiastically in pursuit of the mildest possible reforms of the market system. Then, suddenly, they found themselves, how can I put it, blown off course, swimming in heavy seas, smitten by contagion. So they turned round and set off in the opposite direction.

The spectacular contribution which New Labour has made to this history has been to abandon even the attempt at reforming the system. The market rules. So when Tony Blair tells people to rejoice that we are not back in the early 1980s when interest rates were 15 per cent, or that he wants interest rates to come down, we know he can't really mean it. If the market drives interest rates up to 15 per cent, he can't alter that. As proof of their impotence in these matters, the very first thing Blair's government did was to take interest rates away from elected government and hand them to a committee of the unelected rich, most of whom benefit from high interest rates.

ONCE this subservience to the market becomes clear, so do all the other rather apparently inexplicable actions of the government. Teachers, for instance, are complaining about the re-appointment of Chris Woodhead as Chief Inspector of Schools. But Woodhead has all the necessary qualifications for the job. He is a Tory who owes his appointment under the Tories to his deeply right-wing ideology. He is detested and despised by teachers everywhere, especially by those who are members of a trade union. The Daily Mail adores him. What more could David Blunkett possibly ask for?

AGAIN, some left-wingers have been shocked by Neil Kinnock's

Blair has brought to an end a century of social democracy

Gaitskellite outburst against the left slate for Labour's national executive. But there isn't any mystery about it. The story of what happens when careerists abandon the ideals of their youth was set out in a slashing attack on the embryonic SDP in the Political Quarterly 18 years ago: "The sideways shuffles of those who — in mockery of history and poverty of purpose — like to call themselves Social Democrats offer no means of progress. They neither pacify Labour's enemies nor inspire Labour's friends. And when the shufflers finally take themselves off to state centrist pastures in boardrooms, the House of Lords or European Commissions in a sort of movable Any Questions panel, only the faction-watchers in the Lobby and coalition-mongers in the City mourn."

The author? The verbosity rather gives him away. Neil Kinnock.

No, not the killer blow. For Clinton, shreds of sympathy may return

Hugo Young



IT WAS after dawn when they delivered the lethal weapon, a little later than the usual hour of execution. The functionary received it with proper solemnity. He shook hands as he received the parcel, grateful to do his duty, anxious to observe the formalities.

Though sweating a little, this modern embodiment of Albert Pierrepoint proved, like the last hangman, a stickler for the details. After the video was caressed into the bank of machinery, the pictures had to be calibrated and recalibrated to their finest pitch. Over the executioner's shoulder, you could see the face of the accused jerking about like a puppet's head, as the monitors were fast-forwarded and reversed again and again to get the image in synch, while the CNN commentators intoned their pulpit words. At 9.25am local time, a stubby thumb hit the button that opened the void.

The President's first appearance was of a man who expected the worst. He was sitting there, cold and white of face, and so perhaps were we. A terrible thing was about to happen, a monstrous humiliation, the defilement of a great office: an occasion from way back on August 17, stripping the presidency of its last dignity, thanks to the partisan recklessness of the Republicans on the Hill.

This matched, but was hardly justified by, the unforgivable folly of the man in the dock. The bogus tribunes forced this video upon us, contrary to all grand-jury rules. They hoped it would destroy the president, as the people who had seen it said it would.

Quite soon, however, the experience of watching proved a little different. Starr's leaks, like Starr's report, were one-sided. The forecast of death by video will perhaps turn out to be premature. For Mr Clinton has virtues as well as vices, and some of them were now on display. They could be said to be the vices *of* the virtues, but they came, to some extent, to his rescue. Instead of being the killer blow, the video did a better job for Clinton than Starr was minded to do. It gave, after a fashion, the case for the defence which Starr barely deigned to mention.

These Clinton virtues were not attractive. Quite soon, you could see he was enjoying some of the jousts with his faceless accusers. When he won one, he looked pleased with himself.

He seemed a practised hand at this kind of casuistry, as he presumed to be at reading the feelings of a scorned lover like Monica Lewinsky. For almost every question he had an answer that satisfied him, if not his interrogator.

The adeptness of his wordplay spoke for a mind so smoothly byzantine, so breathtakingly ingenious, that the Clinton brain deserves its own pickling in the Smithsonian Institution, after he has gone and the presidential Hall of Fame has been denied him.

He was also, plainly, speaking to the grand jury as if it was the world. He knew the video would come out, and played the day accordingly. His eye seldom left the camera. From a legal point of view, his performance was disastrous, ignoring all advice about a minimalist approach to grand juries. But he knew that Starr's jury was a fake. It was never going to bring in an indictment, was just a cross on which to crucify him. So he harangued and defied, elaborated and said his many pieces, reminding us of the right-wing conspirators behind Paula Jones, and the obsession of the Starr people with this single part of his own many-sided life. At one point, as he was wriggling and fuming August 17, the screen was split to show him in real time addressing the UN yesterday. By the end of his torment, as relay teams of prosecutors goaded and pressed, the more menacing for their invisibility, a good many viewers may have felt more sympathetic than they expected towards his apparent anger.

ON the other hand, they can hardly have believed him. Never has there been a more preposterous discussion of the definition of sex. Sex, he eventually said, was what he said it was. Anything he did with Monica Lewinsky *by definition* did not amount to sexual relations.

You can take it from me that that's the case, he grandly stated: the self-fulfilling defence against any smell of perjury. Will a single soul in the bible belt or the stews of Soho take this seriously? Likewise, his endless circumnavigations of the truth as told by his secretary Betty Currie carried even him, with his fantastic control of verbal fog, onto the rocks. Both Ms Currie and Mr Vernon Jordan, not to mention the immunised Ms Lewinsky, plainly testified to details which, while not particularly important in the cosmic scheme of any US presidency, have exposed the present incumbent as a chronic dissembler and an occasional liar.

What else, however, is new? There were points where Clinton gave a better explanation of obscurities and contradictions than Starr ever allowed he had done. On other points, the effect of this ghoulish exercise may be to revive the feelings a good many Americans have expressed, that a man in a corner always lies about inappropriate sex. By being trumpeted as the end of Clinton, the video may have been oversold. The Starr report itself exhausted the world's capacity to be appalled. It was shocking to see a president having to engage with the sordid hypotheses the prosecutors felt obliged to put to him, but Clinton's responsibility for that has already, in a sense, been dealt with.

It is now the Republicans, who pushed it in our face, who may pay for this latest degradation of the American system.

Nothing, I think, will remedy that for a long time. Clinton allowed a massive personal indiscretion to contaminate his public role as chief law officer and supposed moral leader of a nation that likes its leaders to be moral. Unless he finds it in himself to depart, a troubled world must face the next two years without a Washington that can act. The president is terribly damaged goods, a condition that will only be made worse if lengthy impeachment hearings now proceed.

But as to the video, its effect will depend on where you stand. Those who loathe Clinton will feel vindicated by his every twisted word and squirming gesture. His capacity to reinvent language, re-write logic and retro-test credibility to destruction will now seem, even more clearly than before, to be a vice we should assume to permeate everything he does, including telling the honest truth. Many will be pleased to see this displayed. Yet there are those who once believed in him, and have just been very disappointed. As they watch, they may find shreds of sympathy returning.

I am going to defy both my party leader and the foreign-owned press, to vote 'No' in the Conservative referendum on Europe

No thanks, William

Andrew Rowe

LIKE William Hague, I do not know whether the single currency will succeed, but I am struck by the fact that so many nations, richer than we are, are confident that it will. I accept that we have chosen to sit on the sidelines for a while to observe it, but I do worry that as a result sterling may be driven even higher, since that will bring job losses and plant closures to my constituents.

I can't believe, however, that it is wise to define now a term to our fence-sitting.

If the damage being done to the UK economy because we were not part of the single currency became horrendous, are we really to say that because we had a referendum of 350,000 members of the Conservative party (the smallest membership this century) we cannot change our policy, even if by then we are the Government? If so, it seems extraordinary. If not, what is the point of the referendum?

I have some years to go before I reach the average age of the members of the Conservative party, but I am over 60 and therefore among those described by the Daily Telegraph as "elderly gentlefolk" who persist in believing that membership of the EU remains good for this country.

It is sometimes alleged that MPs who voted for the European Communities Bill in 1972 had no idea that they were doing anything more than voting to join a free trade area. That is selective memory at its most false. Ted Heath spelled out in paragraph after paragraph in his speech on second reading the constitutional and legal consequences of our accession. I welcomed their decision then and on balance I still believe that our future belongs in the EU.

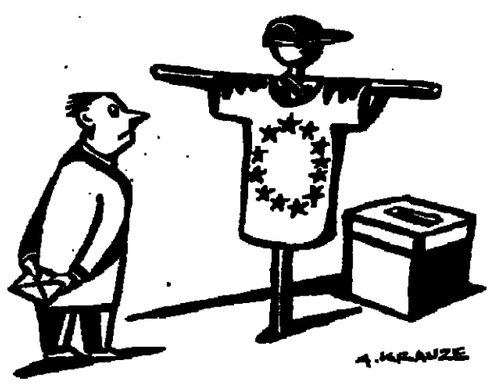
Unlike most members of the Shadow Cabinet, I have never felt constrained to vote against my conscience on the European issue.

In an increasingly unstable world, where water shortages and a growing gap between the rich minority and the starving majority threaten huge problems, there will be an increasing need for the countries of Europe to act together on an ever widening canvas. (Since 1972 we have almost halved our armed forces.) I also believe continued membership will be in our material self interest.

> I am among those elderly gentlefolk who still think Europe is good.

In 1961, when we first applied to join, the UK stood third in prosperity (measured in GDP per head) of the nations now members of the EU. In 1967, when we failed in our application for the second time, we stood fifth; in 1972 when we succeeded in joining, we stood seventh and in 1995 we stood 11th. How can we have slipped so far down the table if our partners are so hopeless and we so dynamic? Has their growing interdependence anything to do with it?

The EU has made mistakes. That is scarcely surprising since it is run by the same ministers who make major mistakes in the conduct of their own national affairs, but the EU's record deserves better at the hands of our media and our politicians than it receives. Part of the trouble has been that for years our ministers have returned from European negotiations determined to extract maximum short-term benefits for their own reputations. If they got their way it was all thanks to their skill at bullying the foreigner, and if they failed it was all due to the perfidy of those same foreigners. This rather childish triumphalism has been pandered to increasingly by our foreign-owned press. It is ironic that the Times, for example, should work so hard to build up the nationalist case when it is owned by someone who has done more than any other individual on earth to render national boundaries and jurisdictions out of date.



Not only did Rupert Murdoch exchange his own nationality for commercial advantage, but every step he takes renders local or national frontiers less important, including his takeover of Manchester United.

I share William's agnosticism about the future of the single currency, but that uncertainty impels me towards a policy which leaves open the maximum room for manoeuvre, so I shall be voting no in the coming referendum.

Andrew Rowe is Conservative MP for Faversham

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'On the left we did hop into each other's beds once in a while'
Charlie van Gelderen, Letters

Inappropriate behaviour?

Clinton must break out

ANOTHER day. Another 2,800 pages of testimony. Another 243 minutes of videotaped evidence. Another week with the most powerful and sophisticated government on earth transfixed and paralysed. Another barrage of excrutiatingly intrusive questions and revelations. And at the end of it the Dow Jones rose, the nation shrugged it shoulders and went back to work.

Republican spinners and their little echo chambers this side of the Atlantic had tried to persuade us that the four hours of President Clinton's filmed testimony before the Grand Jury would be devastating. We would see a President lose his temper, rip his microphone off and storm out. We would see him in a Nixon sweat as he squirmed, wriggled and lied. Starr may have winged him. This video would kill him dead.

How wrong. There were no storm-outs, no profane obscenities from the presidential lips, no outbursts. Mr Clinton was mostly composed and dignified — though there were occasional glints of frustration and controlled anger, particularly at the Paula Jones case, which was dismissed in April. He frankly confessed to behaviour with Monica Lewinsky that was inappropriate, wrong and intimate. He did not think it was appropriate to go into more detail than that, and he refused to do so. He laid much emphasis on his right to privacy, and that of his family. He spoke tenderly and with concern of Ms Lewinsky — "a good girl, with a good heart and a good mind ... a good person." Against that, he was undoubtedly evasive — and, in some instances, dishonest — when pressed about the specific details of his sexual encounters with Ms Lewinsky. His answers relating to Kathleen Willey, another White House employee, were threadbare. He twisted language, split hairs and picked at legal nits in a way that was both wearisome and risible. There was much to deplore, but, on balance, more to admire in the President's performance. Most of the prizes for inappropriate behaviour went to Mr Starr and his team.

Which leaves us precisely where? We have yet to hear a squeak about the original subjects of Kenneth Starr's investigations: on Whitewater, Travelgate and Filegate there is still silence. What we have is a priapic President who lies about sex. We have a Speaker with presidential ambitions of his own pulling unseen strings in a capital city notoriously insulated from the heartbeat of the nation. We have a Democratic Party fearing meltdown in the coming mid-term elections, reluctant to unite behind its President and wishing the whole problem would just go away. It is a disastrous and potentially dangerous recipe.

There are two possible solutions to breaking this unhappy deadlock — both in the President's own hands. The first would be to resign. He could tell his fellow Americans that he does not deserve impeachment. He could admit to having been foolish and dishonest — but that his lies were about sex rather than power or money. But he could say that he wishes to spare his country the agonies and indignities of drawing this grotesque tragi-comedy out any further. It would be, in the short-term at least, a victory for his enemies, but the immediate nightmare would be over. The other solution open to President Clinton is for him once and for all to abandon his pinhead sophistry about what consitutes sexual relations. No more arguments about the meaning of "is" or "alone" or "intent to arouse." He could do it before the House Judicial Committee or he could do it on coast to coast television. "Monica and I had a sexual relationship. It wasn't clever, and it wasn't clever to lie about it, but it happened. Back me or sack me, but let's move on." Calling the Republicans' bluff in this manner may be the only way to break the gridlock.

Children in care

Make them the priority

What sort of parents ignore their children after 16, remain indifferent even if they are pregnant, and do not even intercede when they become homeless? Ironically, the people who are guilty of such lack of care are the very people who are meant to protect children from abuse by their natural, step or foster families — children's departments within local social services.

A survey of 27 English children's departments by social service inspectors failed to find one where all the safeguards protecting the welfare of children were being applied. The Chief Inspector was not only dismayed at what he found but was even more disenchanted to discover many local councillors were completely unaware about how bad their children's departments were performing. Yesterday ministers announced the first of a series of changes designed to make both full-time officials and local councillors more accountable.

Of all vulnerable groups in our society, none is treated more shabbily than children in care. They range in age from the very young to teenagers. Many have already had traumatic experiences before being taken away from their parents, only to suffer further neglect or even abuse in the institutions or homes where they are placed.

Of the 50,000 children in care in England, only 6,000 remain in residential homes. The average child is moved to five different foster families — an average which hides even higher and more unacceptable figures. Even the average underlines the level of poor child management. Up to one out of four young girls leaving care is pregnant, three out of four children have no qualifications, and eight out of 10 have no job to go to. Is it any wonder that 38 per cent of young people in prison and 55 per cent of homeless single people were previously in care?

Ministers instructed children's departments yesterday to draw up new plans setting up specific targets in terms of education achievement, health and employment of care leavers. Further funding levels will depend on the success of departments in meeting their targets. They will also be expected to keep in touch with children until they are 19. There will be much tighter monitoring as well as more support from inspection teams, recruiting the best current practitioners.

The message to local councils could not be clearer: give a higher priority to social services. Councillors have a right to complain about an already over-long list of priorities, but children in care should certainly be there — at the top.

A royal rumpus

Next time check the host

It was not such a funny thing that happened on the Queen's way to the closing of the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. While she settled into a round of banquets and tea-parties, police arrested a former deputy prime minister, Anwar Ibrahim, on lurid charges which make Bill Clinton's sexual behaviour seem mild. Thousands of Dr Anwar's supporters took to the streets, protesting that the charges were a trumped up concoction organised by Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad who sacked Dr Anwar a few weeks ago.

Of course none of the excitement was directed at the Queen. But her presence played more than a minor role. With hundreds of journalists already in Malaysia to cover the Commonwealth Games and more arriving with the Queen for the final days, Dr Anwar saw the opportunity of new publicity. He had already spent several days touring the country to rally support against the prime minister, but the Queen's visit gave him his best chance to publicise his case.

The strangest aspect of the affair was the decision to arrest him while the Queen was in town. Once again Dr Mahathir has shown his huge disdain for common sense. He compounded the arrogance by allowing his officials to cut into British TV crews' coverage and block them from being transmitted.

Raising accusations of corruption and immorality against Dr Anwar were a diversion from the main dispute between the two men. They centre on arguments over whether a country can protect its economy from global capital movements. It is also a struggle between two generations, the younger Westernising coterie around Dr Anwar and the anti-colonial nationalists who support Dr Mahathir.

It must all be very troubling for the monarch who usually gets more respectful coverage abroad than at home. The Malaysian crisis suggests she should be more careful about her host's domestic set-up before she starts out.

Letters to the Editor

Brewing a storm in a teacup

I LIVED in Cambridge for six months with four software engineers from Bombay. Their method of making tea was: Place the loose dried leaf in a saucepan, with cold water and a great deal of sugar. Add chopped fresh ginger, a pinch of salt, and a generous pinch of "tea masala" (black pepper, green cardamom and dried ginger). Boil until the colour of pitch. Add about one quarter the volume of milk, and bring back to the boil. Strain and serve. My apologies if this causes Matthew Engel (September 19) a seizure.
Elliott Bignell.
Basel, Switzerland.

HERE in Yorkshire, Matthew Engel would find innumerable cafes that serve tea made to his prescription, together with an extra jug of hot water so he can top up the pot and have a second and third (and sometimes even a fourth) cup. Proper milk too. Perhaps he should consider the Yorkshire Dales for his next holiday?
David Allsopp.
York.

DESPITE your reports of September 16 and 17, viewers of EastEnders will *not* be treated to a new storyline supporting the Government's National Year of Reading. The "literacy" storyline that recently concluded on screen was conceived last year, long before we had heard that the Government's campaign was coming our way.
Matthew Robinson.
Executive producer,
EastEnders.

NOW that the silly season is over, may I clarify the position about the Victoria and Albert's name? The editorial which I wrote for the V&A Magazine reflected in a lighthearted manner on our name, offered a bottle of champagne to anyone coming up with a good alternative, but concluded very firmly that, like the Louvre or the Met, we should stick with our present title. Unfortunately, a journalist misread my piece and produced a sensationalist story.
Dr Alan Borg.
Director, V&A.

IT seems that the only political crime Liz Davies (The selfish parasites, September 18) is not being accused of is having an affair with Clinton. Or have I missed something in the Starr Report?
Peter Mair.
Bloemendaal, Netherlands.

ALEXANDER Chancellor (September 19) objects to the employment by Customs and Excise of dogs to sniff the behinds of air travellers to check for drugs. Understandable, but think of the alternative!
Laurie Painting.
Coulsdon, Surrey.

IS the Julie Burchill bleating about wicked men picking on fat women the same Face hack who, a dozen years and several stone ago, declared: "You can never be too thin"?
Trevor Lawson.
London.

Adultery is a private affair

MARTIN Kettle misses an important aspect of American public reaction to the accusations swirling around Bill Clinton (Americans shy from judgment, September 17). He claims that "Americans are deeply reluctant to sit in judgment on Mr Clinton, preferring to sigh and shrug their shoulders".

On the contrary, it is not apathy about political life nor an unwillingness to moralise that have kept Clinton's favorability ratings high, but a recognition that there is a distinction between sexual morality and political morality.

The current crisis is a result of the faulty logic that confuses these two. Adultery is widely considered a personal sin and a moral wrong, but politically it pales in comparison with treason or embezzlement. This is a fact that ordinary citizens have caught on to much more quickly than those who make the news.

While Clinton's sexual conduct may be reprehensible, it does not inherently reflect on his political ability as president. People are clued up in that the perjury accusations hinge on a politically malicious alliance that has exacerbated (and indeed even manufactured) a situation for an adulterous husband to damn himself. Above all, what Americans are "moralizing" against is Kenneth Starr's $40 million perversion of the United States Constitution.
Lisa and Scott Weidman.
Oxford.

MARK Tran reports (Couch potato Americans, September 18) that Americans are the new culture vultures (to use your borrowed Americanism). He further reports that this "goes against the stereotype of uncouth rednecks wolfing down Big Macs in front of the television" but fails to point out whose stereotype that is. I can only assume it is an English stereotype.

Two pages later a Mr Guess of Guildford (Letters, September 18) writes (another protest against another measured Jonathan Freedland observation) that "the American people (he means all of them?) are mesmerised, influenced and all but led by Jerry Springer's final homilies. I've only ever seen the Springer show on British television and find it utter rubbish. I presume this goes some way toward explaining its popularity here. I also find it considerably more entertaining that its home-grown imitators: Vanessa and Kilroy-Silk.

I spent the greater part of a 10-hour flight last week reading detailed articles in the San Francisco Examiner on just what is required for the impeachment of a president. I've not found anything like that here. Rather, the British press have obsessed on the more salacious aspects of this fiasco of global consequence.

For a nation which so smugly sit in judgment, the English continually show themselves to be unfathomably ignorant about most aspects of America. Yet it appears that they prefer to stay that way. As for stereotypes, the world still thinks you have terrible teeth and appalling personal hygiene.
P McLaughlin.
London.

... and it can't be blamed on wayward genes

IF, AS Professor Steven Pinker claims (Letters, September 21), men have evolved to be instinctively promiscuous and women monogamous, who have the promiscuous men been doing it with all this time?

Women must have a "genetic drive" towards infidelity too. There is plenty of evidence from the animal world that apparently monogamous females have sex on the side if a better-looking male specimen crosses their path. And having offspring by only one male is a risky genetic strategy. What if that male's genes happen to be faulty? Better not to put all your eggs in one basket.

Not only is Pinker a crude biological determinist, but even at his genetic level of explanation, his views have clearly been influenced by the sexist assumptions and double standards of our society.
Phil Webster.
Clitheroe,
Lancs.

MALE sociobiologists like Steven Pinker are very confident that they understand female sexuality better than we do ourselves. This whole debate reminds me of the Victorian scientists who "proved" that women don't experience desire or orgasm like men do. And, just as with the Victorians, denial of female sexual desire goes hand in hand with social anxiety about its expression. While scientists are apparently confident that women are naturally monogamous, social policy (for example, in relation to single mothers or divorce) is influenced by a fear that female sexuality will break loose if not constrained by necessity.

Unusually among mammals, female human beings do not signal when they are fertile, and the fertile period is about 12 hours in every 28 days. This means that long-term sexual bonding between a couple is a good strategy for reproduction, although quick casual relations offer an outside chance. A sociobiologist is a human being too — and his beliefs are influenced by the anxieties and wishful thinking which affects all of us when we think about sex.
Alison Page.
Coventry.

A MALE who fathered 50 offspring would, given the prevailing environmental conditions, have returned from his philandering to find them starved, eaten by predators, or killed by floods, cold or forest fires.

The "fittest" genes, in the strict Darwinian sense, would be those that survived in the offspring till they were mature enough to breed themselves. Here the protection, the providing and the monogamy of even ancestral man would be a bonus: the faithful male would be far more likely to see his offspring reach maturity and pass on his genes than the mythical fly-by-night copulator.
Ian Flintoff.
London.



Sally Army is more blokes' brigade

I WAS intrigued to read of the Salvation Army's latest attempts to present itself as "a modern, relevant organisation" (Sally Ann steps out in new uniform, September 16). I resigned from this rigid, intrusive and hidebound "established sect" 25 years ago. My departure had nothing to do with quaint uniforms or brass bands. Moreover, I was unconcerned about "professionalism" in the Army's approach to welfare work.

Of the factors which made my continued membership impossible, two are most crucial. I have seen no evidence that either issue has been addressed. First of these is rampant misogyny. While almost all other Protestant Christian churches now give women equal opportunities with men as members and ministers, this was not the case in the Salvation Army. Second, the organisation could not be "an evangelical church" while it declined to observe the sacraments of baptism or holy communion. These two factors are linked by the founding fathers' belief that it was unacceptable for women officers (ministers) to officiate at such ceremonies.

Uniforms are only window dressing. If the Salvation Army wishes to improve its image and retain its members, more fundamental issues must be addressed. I shall remain an Anglican.
Marion Ward.
Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

Curry and kids: rapid rebuttal

AN article by Yasmin Alibhai-Brown (Whose food is it anyway? August 25) has been brought to my attention. She states that the Restaurant Association has only one Asian member. I can report that we have over 100 Asian members, including Indian, Thai, Chinese and Japanese restaurants. It is the fastest growing sector of our membership.

She further claims that there are no Asian food writers/critics, and that Madhur Jeffrey is the only Asian chef to have a television presence. Robina Dam of the Sunday Times immediately springs to mind, and Mridula Baljkjar has made at least two series of 13 half-hour television programmes.
Ian McKerracher.
Chief executive,
The Restaurant Association.

I AM concerned that your report of comments by Tom Roberts, director of October Films, at the Guardian Edinburgh International Television Festival (August 31) may have given a misleading impression of Nottingham City Council's approach to vulnerable children.

In Nottingham we have an excellent track record of dealing with teenage homelessness and children who are vulnerable to drifting into crime and prostitution. We are, however, not complacent: there is always more to do but it would be unfair not to acknowledge the proactive approach which the City Council and its partner agencies have taken.
Paul Snell.
Director,
Nottingham Social Services.

The war of lies and duplicity in the Horn of Africa

I LIVED and worked in Eritrea for four years until November 1997, and read with concern the allegations by Dorigen Hammond (Letters, September 14). Ms Hammond seems to be very well informed about the situation in Ethiopia. She must realise, therefore, that the two countries are engaged in a virtual war of media propaganda.

Ms Hammond refers to the alleged arson attack in Ala; the BBC correspondent in Eritrea went to the village and asked people about the "attack". They had no idea what he was talking about.

As for the displaced people and those killed in the air strikes on Mekelle and Adigrat, Ms Hammond forgets to mention that there are 20,000 ethnic Eritreans who have been deported from Ethiopia as "security risks" and their houses and assets seized. Many of them have Eritrean grandparents but have never been to the country nor speak an Eritrean language. Ms Hammond also neglects to mention that it is now clear that the Ethiopians launched the first air strike, effectively declaring war. And war, unfortunately, means civilian deaths.

War also means lies, distortion and duplicity. What is happening in the Horn of Africa is a hate media campaign, when ethnic Eritrean is pitted against ethnic Ethiopian. We saw in Rwanda what the results of that hysteria were.
Jacky Sutton.
London.

We do not publish letters where only an e-mail address is supplied; please include a full postal address. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used. It is helpful to us if typewritten letters are double-spaced and printed in large type

More confessions from old lefties who came to the aid of the all-night party

SO JOHN o'Farrell was a boring prig when he was briefly a lefty (albeit of a peculiarly indolent and introverted kind, to judge by his account) in the 1980s (Confessions of an ex-lefty, September 19). Now he tells us he's grown up, got into football, and writes speeches for Gordon Brown.

It sounds as if all that's changed is that he's no longer a lefty. The only interesting thing about O'Farrell's cliche-ridden piece — which repeats one of the oldest canards against the left (we're all puritanical killjoys while the right is full of witty, life-enhancing sensualists like John Major and Ann Widdecombe) — is that the Guardian thought it worth publishing. Could this be part of your apparently endless effort to balance every criticism of New Labour with some shameless piece of toadying?
Prof Alex Callinicos.
University of York.

WHICH sad, sorry, left wing sect did John o'Farrell belong to? I was involved in left politics in south Wales at the same time and it was a blast!

The food — mostly but not exclusively vegetarian — was great. We had loads of parties (the kind with dancing), usually on the pretext of raising money. Demonstrations and pickets were really interesting. Some people tried out their theories of non-monogamy (which sometimes ended in tears). Even though there were some boring bits, there was a lot of interesting and engaging stuff — although I don't recall any pet hens.

My comrades were a pretty varied bunch — parents and non-parents, young and not so young, from different backgrounds and doing various jobs. We did share a commitment to making the world a better and fairer place. We haven't always had much success but it doesn't have to be all gloom and cynicism. We can still make a difference.

And John, you should have been there the night we invented a cocktail called "Robotniks' revenge" and danced all night. Now that's a left wing party for you.
Carol o'Byrne.
Pontypridd,
Wales.

AFTER more than 60 years on the left, I do not recognise the bleak austerity described by John o'Farrell. Certainly my life on the left was nothing like this. Yes, we believed that capitalism, with its trail of human misery, should be destroyed, and that socialism was the answer.

But while we worked hard for the cause we believed in, that did not stop us enjoying ourselves. In my younger days, in the Labour League of Youth, we organised socials and house parties.

We went on weekend hikes and camping and, yes, we admired the beauties of nature. Trips to the theatre or cinema and art exhibitions were part of our life. We not only enjoyed life, but wanted to build a better world where everybody could share that enjoyment, not only the privileged few.

We were not obsessed with sex, but we did hop into each other's beds once in a while. John o'Farrell seems to have missed out a lot.
Charlie van Gelderen.
Cambridge.

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FinanceGuardian

Urgent plea for structural shake-up as markets remain in turmoil

Blair urges finance reform

Larry Elliott and Nicholas Watt

TONY BLAIR is to push for the fast-track creation of a new world financial order aimed at promoting high levels of growth and employment and curbing the excesses of global markets.

The Prime Minister will urge other countries to sign up within a year for a world financial authority to fill the policy vacuum left by the inability of the post-war Bretton Woods system to deal with the disruption caused by capital flows.

In a speech to the New York Stock Exchange yesterday the Prime Minister called for wholescale reform of the World Bank and the IMF to make them more accountable and better able to cope with the crises in Russia and the Far East.

However, privately, Mr Blair wants to go much further and is backing a radical blueprint for reform drawn up by the Cambridge academic Lord Eatwell, a Labour spokesman in the Lords and chair of trustees at the left-wing think-tank, the Institute for Public Policy Research.

Under Lord Eatwell's plan, the new authority would develop policies to manage systemic risk in the world economy. Its objectives would include a requirement to pursue policies to maintain high rates of growth and employment. To prevent countries being blown off course by speculators, national governments — after consultations with the new authority — would be empowered to impose capital controls.

In addition, the new body would be given the job of ensuring transparency and accountability at the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, both criticised for their handling of the global financial crisis of the past 15 months.

The world financial authority — built on the foundations of the Bank for International Settlements — would provide the regulatory framework within which the IMF would develop as an effective lender of last resort.

Calling for a "broader vision and greater political momentum", the Prime Minister said yesterday: "This is not a matter of a few technical changes. We should not be afraid to think radically and fundamentally."

Mr Blair said the rebuilding of the world's financial architecture should not be left to a handful of rich countries, but should also involve the developing nations and outside experts.

"I believe we should set ourselves a deadline of one year in which this work should be done, so that we can have the reformed institutions in place before the new millennium," the Prime Minister said.

In his speech, Mr Blair stopped short of calling for the establishment of a new regulatory body, because he does not want to dictate to G8 finance ministers what they should do when they meet to discuss his proposals.

But Downing Street sources indicated last night that Mr Blair believes that the new authority is necessary, because he fears that the IMF and the World Bank will not be able to regulate themselves adequately. One source said: "The Prime Minister does not want to be prescriptive. He is not saying this must happen and a debate needs to be had."

However, Mr Blair's speech drew on Lord Eatwell's ideas which the peer submitted to the Downing Street Policy Unit two weeks ago. The Labour peer said yesterday that his ideas had received a favourable reception among policymakers in Washington.

"The current global crisis stemming from the Asian meltdown has demonstrated beyond all reasonable doubt that the international financial system is not working," Lord Eatwell said yesterday.

"It is not playing its historical role of stimulating real activity, funding real investment and underpinning growth and employment. Historical experience has confirmed the necessity of regulation and of the lender of last resort in domestic markets."

Tokyo triggers FTSE plunge to under 5000

Mark Milner and Larry Elliott

LEADING shares in London plunged below the 5000 level yesterday for the first time this year as dealers took fright at the darkening global outlook, fears of a British recession and continuing political vacuum in the US.

Continental bourses also suffered heavy losses in the wake of a big overnight fall in Tokyo, which took the Nikkei Index down to its lowest level since 1986.

Currency and bond markets were gripped by the prevailing uncertainty, with the dollar coming under pressure and nervous investors seeking security by buying gilts, bunds and US treasuries — seen as havens during the equity market turmoil.

The US currency lost ground against the German mark, dragging sterling down in its wake. The pound fell by two pfennigs against the mark at one stage, but pared the losses in late trading and closed 1.3 pfennings down, at 2.8325.

"There's nothing particularly great about the mark right now, but among the major currencies it wins by a process of elimination. People are not comfortable buying dollars, and there's no reason to buy yen," said one trader at a Japanese bank's London office.

A profits warning by the music conglomerate EMI and news of further job losses in industry merely added to the gloomy mood. The FTSE 100 index closed 65.3 points lower at 4990.3, having been more than 150 points down at one stage. The FTSE has lost almost 20 per cent of its value since mid-July, mirroring a similar fall in New York.

On Wall Street, share trading opened as the American television networks screened President Bill Clinton's grand-jury testimony about his relationship with former intern Monica Lewinsky. Shares are likely to suffer if the President's poll ratings continue to fall as a result of the broadcasts.

Yesterday, the Dow Jones index was down more than 170 points in early trading, although it recovered to move into positive territory.

With little to cheer, some dealers were pinning their hopes of a return to stability in the equity markets on a possible confidence-building cut in interest rates by the US Federal Reserve when it meets next week ahead of the meeting of the Group of Seven industrial nations at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington.

"It looks like there is another volatile week looming ... with plenty to buffet the markets around and bonds looking likely to come out on top," said Bear Stearns economist David Brown.

Japan's trade surplus with the US increased again last month — a trend which some analysts believe could encourage a protectionist sentiment in America.

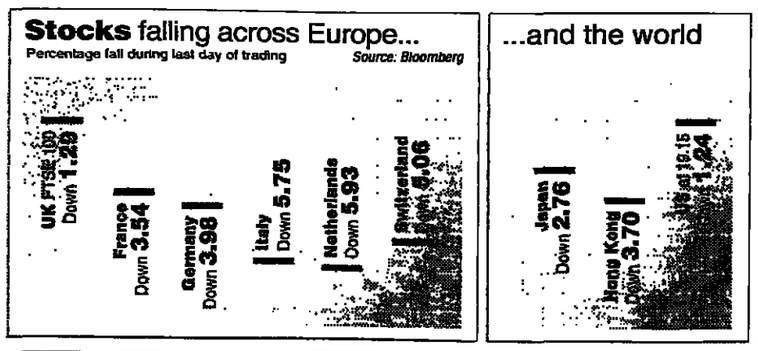
Profits warnings sent shudders through European stocks. The German DAX index fell 4 percent, Dutch shares fell almost 6 per cent, and Spain and Switzerland were off more than 5 per cent.

Electronics company Philips traded 14 per cent down in Amsterdam after the company cut its 1998 profit forecast but said it would buy back about 8 per cent of outstanding shares.

The Tokyo stock exchange was unsettled by domestic uncertainties. The Nikkei slid 2.8 per cent to 13,597 — its lowest level since February 1986. The Japanese currency declined to 133 against the dollar, a fall of almost one yen.



Writ large . . . a giant screen at Zurich's stock exchange shows the Swiss blue chip index dipping towards a 5 per cent loss for the day PHOTOGRAPH: ANDY MUELLER



Agency discredits Japan

Jonathan Watts in Tokyo

JAPAN suffered a new blow to its prestige yesterday when its long-term foreign currency rating was cut for the first time since the war, and its public debt compared to that of Greece.

Fitch IBA, a British firm that evaluates the ability of companies and states to repay their debts, said Japan's foreign currency bonds no longer merited triple-A status, effectively relegating the world's second-largest economy from the premier league of credit-worthiness.

Fitch cited Japan's "hesitant policy responses to economic challenges", "a weak and deteriorating banking system", and "a public debt that will soon be in a similar league to those of Greece, Italy and Belgium".

Because Japan does not issue external debt, the effect is mainly psychological, but the move is sure to draw an angry response from Tokyo.

When credit rating agencies considered similar actions in the past, government officials were quick to point out that Japan is the world's biggest creditor nation, with overseas assets of 125 trillion yen (£550 billion) and a huge current-account surplus.

Nonetheless, the charge of policy paralysis gained credibility yesterday as a pact between the ruling and opposition parties on financial reform appeared to be unravelling. The agreement had been hailed as a first step towards reviving Japan's economy.

The opposition accuses the government of planning to renege on promises to strip the finance ministry of some powers and to liquidate the ailing Long Term Credit Bank of Japan and place it temporarily under state control.

Ford puts staff on four-day week

Nicholas Bannister, Chief Business Correspondent

FORD is cutting car production in Britain by putting workers at its Dagenham factory on a four-day week. Company officials blamed the move on weak export markets.

Production is also being reduced at the company's plant in Cologne, Germany. Both factories make small Ford cars.

Roger Lyons of the Manufacturing Science and Finance union, which represents white-collar workers at Ford, said: "This is further evidence that manufacturing is in difficulty."

However, Tony Woodley of the Transport and General Workers' Union said that no jobs would be lost.

Under the company's agreement with the unions, production employees will turn up for work as usual but will be reassigned to other activities in the plant, such as training or maintenance.

A Ford spokesman said that the Thursday night and Friday day shifts at Dagenham, which between them make about 1,200 vehicles, would stop production for seven weeks from October 1.

About 4,400 workers in the factory's body and assembly plants would be affected. They each stand to lose a £20 night shift premium every fortnight. The Dagenham plant makes about 90,000 vehicles a year, of which about 45 per cent is exported.

Ford said that demand for the Fiesta car remained strong in Britain, with more than 119,000 being sold over the past 12 months.

Ford is not the only British carmaker seeking to reduce output. Rover recently announced that it was cutting a number of night shifts at its Longbridge works in Birmingham to reduce costs and lower production levels.

Next year's British car sales are forecast to be well below the relatively good figures expected for this year.

● More than 500 jobs are being axed at a hi-tech Devon factory as part of a global restructuring by Nortel. Employees were told yesterday of the closure of the group's Proximity I fixed wireless access operation in Paignton, *writes Geoffrey Gibbs*.

The £47 million plant, opened barely five years ago, specialises in equipment that links private and public phone networks via wireless technology rather than copper or fibre-optics. A further 56 jobs will be lost in Maidenhead as a result of the restructuring.

News of the cutback has come as a savage blow in Torbay, where Nortel has invested heavily since the takeover of the telecoms group STC in 1991.

CBI seeks Bank influence with service sector survey

David Gow Industrial Editor

THE Confederation of British Industry is seeking to extend its influence over Bank of England decisions on interest rates and Treasury stewardship of the economy by regularly publishing a new survey on the state of Britain's service sector.

Due to be unveiled at the end of October — the 40th anniversary of the CBI's industrial trends survey covering manufacturing — the consumer, business and professional services survey will enable the employers' body to provide data on just over 60 per cent of Britain's economic output, compared with the 40 per cent surveyed at present.

The Bank's monetary policy committee is the butt of repeated claims from business and unions that it now sets interest rates to take the heat out of a booming services sector but fails to adequately take into account the needs of a manufacturing sector squeezed by high rates and the strong pound.

The MPC already sees the CBI's industrial trends, distributive trades and financial services surveys before publication to enable it to frame its policy on rates. The new survey aims to provide its members with evidence of what is going on in a sector notoriously difficult to analyse.

Notebook

A lead in search of an audience



Edited by Mark Milner

THE speech of Prime Minister Tony Blair to the New York Stock Exchange yesterday fell neatly into two parts. The bulk was a well-reasoned analysis of the problems facing the global economy. Proposals for reform were bang in line with the current orthodoxy — those in trouble need sustainable fiscal policies; supply side reforms; tax and banking systems that work. Openness and transparency were among the Blair watchwords.

The global financial framework needs a revamp and soon, a process which should not be confined to the distant statesmen of powerful nations. Developing nations, business and academia should be brought into the reform process.

Simultaneously in London his aides were letting it be known that the Prime Minister was looking favourably on the creation of a world financial authority to act as global regulator and spur of governments towards more growth-oriented policies.

The other part was by way of a commercial for the investment opportunities offered by Northern Ireland. It was in no way out of place. There is a peace dividend to be collected in Northern Ireland because governments on both sides of the border were prepared to provide leadership and bring the vast majority of those they represented along with them.

It is precisely that kind of leadership which needs to be brought to bear on the problems facing the global economy. Yet it is lacking. Japan is introspective; collectively the European Union lacks cohesion, while individual European heads of government either do not have the stature or have more immediately pressing preoccupations. America is equally preoccupied.

As Mr Blair was at least trying to provide a degree of leadership, the financial markets were focused not on his comments, but on the video of President Clinton's grilling over his relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Nero would have loved it.

Going for a song?

EMI is certainly not top of the pops when it comes to shareholder value — the company's shares sank by another 15 per cent yesterday, leaving them at well under half their peak. If gold discs were on offer for the frequency of profits warnings, however, EMI would surely be in contention.

Yet the Cool Britannia slogan could have been invented for EMI, one of the UK's truly global players in a sector still regarded as truly wicked. There it is with a line-up boasting some of the most sought-after artists in the world. So what is dragging down its performance?

Clearly a degree of misfortune can be blamed on the economic turbulence in many of the world's largest and fastest-growing music markets. Japan has been under pressure for some time but now Latin American markets, notably that of promising Brazil, have gone belly up.

And although EMI claims to invest heavily in its artist and repertoire budget — the music world's equivalent of R&D — the shortcomings in the group's current output raise doubts about whether the company's talent scouts have lost their touch.

It is a considerable relief that the company mopped up the music libraries it did earlier this decade since this business now accounts for a third of sales and was almost certainly responsible for the only bright spot on the group's horizon, a 9 per cent sales rise in America.

EMI remains a jewel in the global music industry – the only independent of any value. But unless the management moves up a gear this business will be lost to Britain and to its shareholders for little more than a song.

Surplus sorrows

THE Japanese authorities will not have enjoyed seeing the rating agency, Fitch IBCA, downgrade the country's long-term foreign currency rating, albeit to a still pretty nifty AA-plus. Even less will they have enjoyed Fitch's explanation for the move: a weak banking system, hesitant policy responses and a public debt burden which is threatening to put Japan in the same borrowers' league as Belgium, Italy and Greece.

But the downgrade and the fall in the Tokyo stock market to a 12-year low were by no means the most worrying news to come out of Japan yesterday. There was greater cause for concern in the trade figures.

They showed Japan's trade surplus up by more than 21 per cent in August, the 17th consecutive monthly increase. The surplus with the US rose even more sharply, up 28 per cent to $3.23 billion. Given the reluctance of Japanese consumers to delve into their wallets to give the domestic economy a boost, the burgeoning trade balance might be thought a boon.

That is hardly the way it will appear to American workers worrying about their jobs, however. Nor is it the way it will play on Capitol Hill, once America's politicians get over their obsession with whether or not the President should be impeached, and realise some of their voters have other things on their minds.

The US has the key role to play in ensuring that not only Japan but other crisis-hit economies in Asia can trade their way out of trouble. But some sections of American society will jib if it is asked to do too much too quickly.

Gates takes five on zillionaire scale

Roger Cowe

POOR Bill Gates. Well, not exactly poor but not quite as rich as people think. Not by historical standards, anyway.

The Microsoft founder's $62 billion (£37 billion) makes him merely the fifth-richest man in American history, according to American Heritage magazine — an offshoot of Forbes, the talking shop for America's rich, whose millionaire founder fails to make the top 40.

Top of the zillionaire heap — weighted to take into account the changing value of cash — is John Rockefeller, the oil magnate turned philanthropist. In today's money, the fortune he derived from oil would be worth $190 billion, although when he died in 1937 at the age of 98 the contemporary cash figure did not quite reach the billion-dollar mark.

The oil millions put Rockefeller well ahead of his rivals, even though they were shared with younger brother William, who sneaks into the chart at number 38.

Rockefeller heads a collection of bankers, industrialists and shopkeepers (Marshall Field of the eponymous department stores and the Wal-Mart founder, Sam Walton, come in at 10 and 11). Most of them made their fortunes before the turn of the century.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.79	Germany 2.7471	Malaysia 6.39	Singapore 2.85
Austria 19.27	Greece 473.00	Malta 0.62	South Africa 10.05
Belgium 56.71	Hong Kong 12.67	Netherlands 3.0665	Spain 232.53
Canada 2.49	India 71.648	New Zealand 3.27	Sweden 12.98
Cyprus 0.81	Ireland 1.09	Norway 12.24	Switzerland 2.251
Denmark 10.53	Israel 6.468	Portugal 280.20	Turkey 445,320
Finland 8.45	Italy 2,729	Saudi Arabia 6.20	USA 1.6064
France 9.1865			

Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, shekel and dollars)

هكذا من الأصل

Racing

Reid handed plum ride on Among Men

Graham Rock

WITH Mick Kinane suspended at the weekend, Michael Stoute has booked John Reid to ride Among Men, one of nine high-class milers declared for the Group One Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot on Saturday.

The Sussex Stakes winner carries the colours of Michael Tabor, who also part owns Second Empire. The Irish 2,000 Guineas third works at Ballydoyle this morning before Aidan O'Brien decides whether his colt will challenge for the championship race.

Dr Fong and Desert Prince, who fought out the finish to the St James's Palace Stakes, are also declared. Desert Prince had Second Empire five lengths back in third when landing the Prix du Moulin at Longchamp earlier in the month and is favourite at a best-priced 3-1 with Ladbrokes. They also bet 7-2 Muhtathir, 4-1 Among Men, Dr Fong, 9-2 Second Empire and 6-1 Cape Cross.

John Gosden's progressive Muhtathir, successful in the Celebration Mile, has been confirmed a runner, while Godolphin rely on the Lockinge Stakes winner Cape Cross.

The stable star at a mile, Intikhab, will miss the race because of minor training setbacks and is being prepared for the Breeders' Cup Mile at Churchill Downs.

A surprise absentee is One So Wonderful. Luca Cumani's filly will run in the Sun Chariot Stakes at Newmarket a week on Saturday, a race that Cumani decribes as being "more suitable for her."

Only nine runners have been declared for the Diadem Stakes over six furlongs, which looks significantly weaker than in recent years. The likely favourite is Tomba, winner of the Cork And Orrery Stakes at Royal Ascot. Brian Meehan's sprinter finished a good third to Tamarisk at Haydock Park last time on ground faster than ideal. The going is presently good for the Ascot Festival, with dry weather forecast until Friday.

Jo Mell heads the weights for the Tote Festival Handicap. Last year's winner, who went on to land the Tote International over the same course and distance in August, is 14-1 with the sponsors, who have Al Muallim favourite at 7-1.

John Oxx is considering sending over his impressive Moyglare Stud Stakes winner Edabiya for the Fillies' Mile on Sunday. "She's a likely runner, depending on how she works," he said, and nominated the Prix Marcel Boussac at Longchamp a week later as an alternative.

Her half-sister, Ebadiyla, who was withdrawn at the start of the Irish St Leger on Saturday, is still on course for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. "She had a little nose bleed, nothing serious. It wasn't a broken blood vessel," Oxx explained.

With the news that Bint Allayl will miss the Cheveley Park Stakes, Jeremy Noseda has decided to let his Cherry Hinton Stakes heroine, Wannabe Grand, take her chance at Newmarket.

"It must be very frustrating for Mick Channon, and I never thought we would beat his filly. I thought mine would win the Moyglare at six furlongs, but she did not get home over seven in softish ground against a strong head wind," Noseda said.

The Tote Jackpot was not won yesterday and £430,000 is carried forward to Beverley today when the pool is expected to reach £700,000.

United States retain the Solheim Cup with ease and rancour



Cheer leader . . . Dottie Pepper, centre, in one of her more subdued moments NEAL LAURON

How Pepper rubbed salt into Euro-wounds

David Davies laments a poor showing by outgunned visitors and one outré American

DESPITE another defeat, the fourth in the five matches so far, and despite an ever-widening points difference with the United States having won 64 to Europe's 45 overall, no one is yet willing to concede that the Solheim Cup format is wrong.

On Sunday the Americans beat Europe at Jack Nicklaus's Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio by 16-12, which might more realistically have been 16½-11½ but for a quixotic gesture by the home side's last player on the course, Meg Mallon. One up on Sofie Gustafson, and equidistant from the 18th pin in two, she conceded the hole to the Swede for a halved match instead of a possible full point.

It was a generous and sportswomanlike thing to do, but it gave a false gloss to the result as well as infuriating spread betters who had their money on the other scoreline.

Whatever the margin, this was a comfortable win for the Americans. They won three and halved one of the fourball and foursomes series, establishing a lead of 10½-5½ going into the final day, which realistically was an insuperable lead with only 12 singles to come. That the Europeans were able to come out on Sunday and manufacture such a good result, comparatively, was due to the Pepper Factor — the Americans' dotty Dottie, whose obnoxious behaviour would see her banned from any golf club with even half an eye on etiquette.

Pepper took every opportunity to incite the crowds to further fervour, regardless of whether the opposition still had shots to play, and eventually this provoked a complaint from Laura Davies to the home captain Judy Rankin. This protest effectively was ignored, for Rankin can see nothing wrong in the kind of behaviour that would get a member ejected from any club in the United Kingdom.

After the match Davies revealed her thoughts on the subject. "When you incite the crowd when your opponent still has to play a very, very difficult chip, when we're still trying desperately to get a half-point out of the match,

Dotty Dottie's behaviour would see her banned from any golf club

that's when I take exception."

That happened in Saturday morning's foursomes when, after the Americans had putted dead, Pepper went on one of her fist-pumping excursions, exciting an already excitable crowd. But Marie Laure de Lorenzi still had a shot to play, which, if she could get it close enough for Helen Alfredsson to hole the putt, would give Europe a half-point.

She deserved the courtesy of being able to weigh up and play the shot in golf's customary silence, and she was denied that.

Pepper said she did not once think she had overstepped the mark into gamesmanship. "To me it's patriotism," she added. "I'm glad to be their punchbag if that's what it takes. I take it as a compliment."

Davies said: "What Pepper did out there was unprofessional, unnecessary and it spurred us on, so it was also a big mistake."

Davies was equally forthright about the format. The European team, to detached observers, appears to be at the same stage as the early Great Britain and Ireland Ryder Cup teams, with a strong top half and nothing substantial to follow. That was borne out on Sunday when Europe won the top four singles and then lost five out of the next six.

On Sunday Davies herself gave the team the lead they needed, beating Pat Hurst on the final green despite having taken an approximate 80 strokes to get round. Three Swedes, Annika Sorenstam, Alfredsson and Lisalotte Neumann followed, and all of them won, meaning that the overnight deficit of five points was now down to one.

But there were to be no more European wins while the match was alive. Charlotta Sorenstam, level after 15 holes, lost to successive Kelly Robbins birdies, and Catriona Matthew suffered similarly against Sherri Steinhauer, who retained the cup for her side by taking the 15th with a birdie and won it outright with another at the 16th. It was depressingly predictable.

But Davies does not see it that way. "We have more than enough good players," she said. "In a few years' time you'll be asking about the Americans — are they good enough? Do they need Canadians and Japanese? I'll look forward to that day."

What no European can look forward to at present is Sunningdale 2000, where another American cakewalk would reduce home media interest in the event to negligible levels. The simple fact is that 28 points to play for is too much play for the Europeans.

Warwick runners and riders

	GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
2.00	Dollar Law	Cusin (nb)
2.30	Kalidasa	Kalidasa
3.00	Mitcham	Pacific Alliance
3.30	Kangaroo Island	Bridal White
4.00	Makebelieve Island (nb)	Little Gem
4.30	Grand Slam	Grand Slam
5.00	Maradi	Java Shrine
5.30	Mussiee	Mussiee

Sharp, left-handed track of 1¾m with 2¾f run-in.
Going: Good to Firm, Good in Places. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: Low numbers favoured.
Seven day winners: 5.00 Francesca's Folly, Mussiee.
Blinkered first time: 4.00 Makebelieve Island, 5.00 April Treasure, 5.30 Keepsake. Visored: 4.30 Hebony, 5.00 Mendeluci.

2.00 E.B.F. BRINKLOW MAIDEN STAKES 2YO 7f £4,050 (14 declared)

1 (13) Barabaschi P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 ... R Hughes —
2 (11) 0 Brave Vision (24) J Arnold 8-11 ... G Bardwell 78
3 (1) 00 Clearandunderstanding (14) M Pipe 8-11 ... F Lynch 87
4 (6) Cladeshi L Cumani 8-11 ... R Ffrench —
5 (8) 22 Cusin (118) (BF) Mrs J Cecil 8-11 ... Martin Dwyer ●90
6 (14) 3 Dollar Law (14) P Cole 8-11 ... T Quinn 89
7 (12) 6 Fort William (14) (BF) Sir M Stoute 8-11 ... J Reid 86
8 (9) 53 Gauntlet (22) J Noseda 8-11 ... G Hind 88
9 (3) 03 Grand Maitre (17) J Dunlop 8-11 ... Pat Eddery 87
10 (5) 000 Marco's Pal (46) A Jarvis 8-11 ... D Sweeney 82
11 (7) 05 Mehmaas (12) C Benstead 8-11 ... R Hills ★ 84
12 (2) Moon River Wonder B Hills 8-11 ... M Hills —
13 (4) 33 Serpentine (31) J Fanshawe 8-11 ... N Cochrane 86
14 (10) 6 Whistling Jack (22) B Meehan 8-11 ... J F Egan 80

Betting: 7-2 Cusin, 5-1 Fort William, 6-1 Dollar Law, Gauntlet.

2.30 E.B.F. MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES 2YO 7f £4,290 (17 declared)

1 (8) Alzeema R Armstrong 8-11 ... R Mills —
2 (1) Buckle W Jarvis 8-11 ... R Cochrane —
3 (11) 0 Coco Girl (19) I Balding 8-11 ... Martin Dwyer 81
4 (9) 6 Dancin' Doll (15) J J O'Neill 8-11 ... N Pollard (5) 87
5 (13) Ermine L Cumani 8-11 ... R Ffrench —
6 (7) 0 Jellybean (28) Miss G Kelleway 8-11 ... J F Egan 80
7 (5) 26222 Kalidasa (12) P Chapple-Hyam 8-11 ... Pat Eddery ●90
8 (15) 6 Keralla (48) Sir M Stoute 8-11 ... J Reid 86
9 (9) 0 Lady Petra (13) V Soane 8-11 ... F Norton 83
10 (3) 00 Petak (92) D French Davis 8-11 ... S Whitworth 84
11 (3) 6 Queen Zenobia (24) J Gosden 8-11 ... A Garth 85
12 (13) 0 Sali-Go Run (6) K McAuliffe 8-11 ... M Tebbutt 82
13 (16) 00 Sing For Rosie (14) P Makin 8-11 ... D Griffiths (3) 81
14 (2) 5 Sid Lodge (17) C Brittain 8-11 ... T Sprake 85
15 (14) Tattling B Hills 8-11 ... M Hills —
16 (10) 00 Thrifty (6) M Ryan 8-11 ... P McCabe 82
17 (17) 0 Treasury (5) Sir M Prescott 8-11 ... G Duffield 86

Betting: 11-10 Kalidasa, 13-2 Ermine, 7-1 Keralla, Tattling, 8-1 Treasury.

3.00 MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES 2YO (DIV 1) 6f £3,808 (13 declared)

1 (2) 5 Pacific Alliance (24) R Armstrong 8-12 ... R Price ●90
2 (8) 4 Mitcham (24) T Mills 8-11 ... Pat Eddery 89
3 (13) 000 Fair Castrian (84) J Berry 8-9 ... A McGlone 80
4 (9) 0 Indigo Beach (9) Sir M Prescott 8-9 ... G Duffield 84
5 (6) 500 Rainbow Bosson (66) P Walwyn 8-9 ... R Cochrane 81
6 (5) 03 Contrytycurbreath (25) B Meehan 8-8 ... M Tebbutt 85
7 (7) Wry Ardour A Newcombe 8-7 ... J Quinn —
8 (3) Ebony R Guest 8-6 ... J Reid —
9 (11) 0 State Wind (31) N Littmoden 8-6 ... T G McLaughlin 82
10 (10) 600020 Knockemback Nellie (13) D Elsworth 8-4 ... N Pollard (5) 87
11 (1) 0600 Fleur d'Or (66) M Polglase 8-3 ... P Doe (5) 83
12 (12) 46 Lost In Lucca (30) J Hills 8-3 ... R Hills 87
13 (4) 22 Emma-Lyne (22) (BF) A Jarvis 8-0 ... Martin Dwyer 88

Betting: 5-2 Mitcham, 3-1 Pacific Alliance, 11-2 Knockemback Nellie, Emma-Lyne.

3.30 MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES 2YO (DIV 2) 6f £3,808 (13 declared)

1 (13) Bold Cardowan John Berry 8-11 ... Declan O'Shea —
2 (9) 0 Eyelash Dot (5) Sir M Prescott 8-11 ... C Rutter 80
3 (5) 055 Adelphi Boy (6) M Chapman 8-8 ... T Wilson 87
4 (8) 01 Kangaroo Island (28) P Chapple-Hyam 8-7 ... S Whitworth 87
5 (12) 0 Cyrus Park (14) W Jarvis 8-6 ... M Tebbutt 79
6 (4) Father Malcolm R Williams 8-6 ... D Biggs —
7 (10) Kee Ring P Cundell 8-6 ... R Perham —
8 (7) 0 Shady Deal (57) M Usher 8-4 ... T Quinn 82
9 (3) 0 Bebe Commonant (22) A Newcombe 8-3 ... J Tate 84
10 (11) 05 Henrietta Holmes (22) J Fanshawe 8-2 ... T Sprake 88
11 (1) 006 Bishopstone Pond (84) S Mellor 8-0 ... J Quinn 85
12 (6) 436 Bridal White (13) K Wingrove 7-13 ... N Kennedy ●90
13 (2) 5358 Seren Teg (8) B Palling 7-13 ... Martin Dwyer 87

Betting: 2-1 Kangaroo Island, 9-2 Bridal White, 6-1 Seren Teg.

4.00 TOTE NURSERY HANDICAP 2YO (SHOWCASE RACE) 1m £7,635 (10 declared)

1 (5) 02214 Magic Memories (18) (BF) D Elsworth 9-7 ... N Pollard (5) 86
2 (8) 24341 Little Gem (17) R Hannon 9-7 ... Dane O'Neill ●90
3 (1) 513 Canadian Approval (7) (D) P Harris 9-6 ... J Reid 87
4 (3) 00355 Tumbleweed Glen (12) B Meehan 9-5 ... Pat Eddery 86
5 (4) 4450 Makebelieve Island (22) (BF) B Hills 9-5 ... M Hills ★ 86
6 (7) 240215 Lady Mack (15) D French Davis 9-5 ... S Whitworth 87
7 (6) 404 Qoodax (17) E L James 9-4 ... G Duffield 84
8 (9) 25402 Super Forum (8) M Johnston 8-11 ... D Holland 86
9 (2) 526122 Melody Queen (23) K Burke 8-9 ... J Quinn 87
10 (10) 000 Dalby of York (18) P Cole 8-3 ... T Quinn 82

Best early-morning prices: 5-1 Canadian Approval (C, H), Tumbleweed Glen (general), 7-1 Little Gem (H, L), 8-1 Makebelieve Island (L), Lady Mack (C, T), Super Forum (H), Magic Memories (C, L), 9-1 Melody Queen (C, L, T).
C, Coral; H, Hill's; L, Ladbrokes; T, Tote

4.30 MEDIAN AUCT MDN STAKES 3YO 1m £2,658 (13 declared)

1 (5) -24224 Grand Slam (7) R Hannon 9-0 ... R Hughes ●90
2 (10) 5-2632 Kennet (7) P Cundell 9-0 ... J Quinn 86
3 (7) 0 My Little Man (78) B Smart 9-0 ... J Reid 83
4 (4) 03030 Salayman (25) R Charlton 9-0 ... T Sprake ★ 84
5 (13) 340052 Thelonius (26) J G Smyth-Osbourne 9-0 ... R Smith (7) 87
6 (1) 0 Alpine Lady (8) N Callaghan 8-9 ... G Duffield 81
7 (2) Alwaza S C Williams 8-9 ... F Lynch —
8 (8) 50- Every Penny (378) E L James 8-9 ... S Whitworth 86
9 (9) 222330 Hebony (6) J Gosden 8-9 ... A Garth ★ 86
10 (12) 0-6553 Lineage (81) N Graham 8-9 ... R Cochrane 87
11 (6) Miranna L Cumani 8-9 ... R Ffrench —
12 (11) Moon Mission J G Smyth-Osbourne 8-9 ... R Perham —
13 (3) 60 Spare Set (14) M Meagher 8-9 ... J F Egan 82

Betting: 7-2 Hebony, 4-1 Grand Slam, Thelonius, 11-2 Miranna, 13-2 Kennet.

5.00 CHESTNUT CLAIMING HANDICAP 1m 2f 169yds £3,330 (20 declared)

1 (11) 50-003 Zidac (87) P Makin 6-10-0 ... R Hughes 85
2 (13) 240031 Java Shrine (14) (CD) P Eccles 7-9-13 ... N Pollard (5) ★ ●90
3 (5) 5000/0 Pretoo (65) (D) J Akehurst 8-9-11 ... J Reid 82
4 (9) 04250/ Mendeluci (J113) J O'Shea 6-9-10 ... D McGaffin (7) ★ 78
5 (17) 000000 Glenbourg (46) R O'Sullivan 4-9-7 ... A Clark 77
6 (14) 423150 Double Rush (7) T Mills 6-9-1 ... Pat Eddery 83
7 (1) 0-6020 Carver Doone (18) D Chappell 3-9-0 ... A McGlone 84
8 (10) 120450 Hill Farm Dancer (31) W Brisbourne 7-9-0 ... D Griffiths (3) 85
9 (12) 050066 Classic Couture (15) Pat Mitchell 4-9-0 ... M Fenton 84
10 (6) 6000 April Treasure (15) J Spearing 3-8-12 ... S Drowne ★ 80
11 (2) 000400 Rohanna (28) J Akehurst 3-8-12 ... D Holland 81
12 (15) 300/24 Desert Power (6) D Burchell 9-8-11 ... R Price 86
13 (2) -45010 Welsh Mountain (14) K Morgan 5-8-10 ... P Fitzsimons (7) 88
14 (19) 112000 Flashy Flyer (17) H Manners 5-8-10 ... J Tate 83
15 (8) 300230 Formidable Flame (64) (BF) W Musson 5-8-9 ... R Cochrane 85
16 (20) 26220- Supercolt (J38) M Pipe 7-8-9 ... T Quinn 82
17 (3) 535621 Francesca's Folly (6) (6lb ex) N Callaghan 3-8-9 ... J F Egan 89
18 (6) 0-0004 Maradi (J10) B Curley 4-8-8 ... J Quinn 80
19 (18) -05000 Highspeed (21) P Felgate 6-8-8 ... G Duffield 80
20 (16) 540/00 Salbus (64) G L Moore 8-8-7 ... Candy Morris 79

Betting: 8-1 Java Shrine, Double Rush, Maradi, 10-1 Zidac, Welsh Mountain.

5.30 APPRENTICES' HANDICAP 2m 20yds £2,490 (10 declared)

1 (2) 465404 Rushen Raider (3) (D) K Hogg 6-9-10 ... N Callan (3) 89
2 (3) 051420 Rossignols d'Or (13) (C) G Ham 4-9-9 ... R Smith (3) 86
3 (5) 04630- Wesley's Lad (J136) D Burchell 4-9-8 ... K Sked (3) 85
4 (4) 300430 Petoshin (31) (D) J Pearce 6-9-3 ... A Polli 84
5 (7) 0050-5 Prairie Minstrel (J117) R Dickin 4-9-2 ... P Mundy (7) 87
6 (8) 122411 Mussiee (3) (6lb ex) (D) P Hiatt 3-8-12 ... P Goode (5) ●90
7 (10) 000/62 Shabrani (57) M Chapman 6-8-9 ... P Doe 88
8 (6) 604465 Koniecznie (3) M Usher 4-8-8 ... W Hutchinson (5) ★ 78
9 (1) 225006 Colleridge (32) (CD) J Sheehan 10-8-6 ... J Wilson (7) ★ 85
10 (9) 525402 Thanks Keith (27) J J O'Neill 3-8-5 ... N Pollard ★ 86

Betting: 4-1 Mussiee, 6-1 Rushen Raider, 7-1 Petoshin, Prairie Minstrel, Colleridge.

Beverley Jackpot card

	GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
2.10	Rusk	Legend Of Love
2.40	Ya Malak	Almaty
3.10	Open Secret (nap)	Open Secret
3.40	Gymcrak Flyer	Knave's Ash
4.10	Lake Taal	Master Caster (nap)
4.40	Chimes Of Peace	Elusive Star
5.10	The Real Mccoy	Ten Past Six

Right-handed track of 1m3f with 2½f run-in. Testing 5f course which rises throughout.
Going: Good to Firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: High numbers best over 5f.
Seven day winners: 4.10 Master Caster, Hit The Spot.
Blinkered first time: None. Visored: 2.10 Diamond Crown, 4.10 King Of Dance.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J, Jumps.

2.10 SUGAR BEET SELLING STAKES 1m 4f £2,066 (14 declared)

101 (3) 101033 Diamond Crown (8) (CD) M Wane 7-9-10 ... A Whelan ★ 88
102 (7) 224500 Kilnamartyra Girl (24) (C) (D) J Parkes 8-9-5 ... G Bardwell 82
103 (5) 520545 Labrian (27) (D) R Allan 11-9-5 ... J Weaver 86
104 (1) 506060 Naked (24) G Oldroyd 6-9-5 ... M Semple (7) ★ 85
105 (12) -00050 Our Risk (J18) B Ellison 4-9-5 ... R Winston (3) 81
106 (2) 5100-0 Rusk (179) T Easterby 5-9-5 ... L Charnock 87
107 (8) 00-050 The Vale (142) L Lloyd-James 6-9-5 ... K Hodgson 83
108 (11) 600004 French Ginger (21) Denys Incisa 7-9-0 ... Kim Tinkler 86
109 (9) 0 Vanilla Couture (22) B Baugh 4-9-0 ... Dale Gibson 84
110 (6) 200600 Lake Aria (40) J Eyre 5-9-0 ... C Lowther 82
111 (10) 00/ Sweet Serenade (862) J Leigh 5-9-0 ... J Carroll 77
112 (4) 340038 Legend Of Love (14) J Glover 3-8-11 ... S D Williams ●90
113 (14) -15660 Northern Lass (6) M Tompkins 3-8-11 ... P Robinson ★ 87
114 (13) 033203 Shambles (7) G Margarson 3-8-6 ... M Henry 89

Betting: 9-2 Legend Of Love, 5-1 Rusk, 13-2 Shambles, 7-1 Our Risk, 8-1 Diamond Crown, French Ginger, 10-1 Kilnamartyra Girl, Labrian.

FORM GUIDE - Diamond Crown: Held up, headway over 3l out, stayed on under pressure final furlong, 3rd of 18, 3l behind Old Red at Nottingham 2m hcap, Gd. Kilnamartyra Girl: Held up in touch, hard driven over 2f out, no impression, 9th of 15, 14l behind Gymcrak Tiger at Beverley 1m 4f sell hcap, Gd-Fm. Labrian: Held up, effort 4f out, ridden and no response, 5th of 8, 15l behind Ten Past Six at Carlisle 1m 4f claim, Gd-Sft. Our Risk: Ninth of 18, 27l behind Quinze at Galway 1m4f hcap, Sft. Basic: Chased leaders until lost place over 3f out, tailed off, last of 13, 43l behind Turnpole at Doncaster 2m2f hcap, Gd-Sft. French Ginger: Prominent until outpaced 3l out, kept on under pressure final furlong, 4th of 11, 8l behind Pleasant Dreams at Ripon 1m claim, Sft. Legend Of Love: Prominent until ridden and lost place 5f out, never dangerous after, 6th of 10, 27l behind Tacashaan at Newcastle 2m hcap, Gd-Fm. Shambles: Headway 3l out, hampered over 1f out, ran on final furlong, finished 4th, placed 3rd, 3rd of 12, 3l behind Coalminersdaughter at Yarmouth 1m3f claim, Gd-Sft.

2.40 WINTER WHEAT CONDITIONS STAKES 5f £4,967 (9 declared)

201 (4) 230020 Almaty (12) (D) W Muir 5-8-9 ... K Fallon ●90
202 (5) 001500 Astrac (80) D Nicholls 7-8-9 ... T Ashley 85
203 (3) 0-0330 Moon Strike (22) (CD) Mrs A E Johnson 8-8-9 ... G Carter 84
204 (2) 050035 Ya Malak (14) (CD) (BF) D Nicholls 7-8-9 ... Alex Greaves 89
205 (7) 345630 Ziggy's Dancer (3) (CD) E Alston 7-8-9 ... W Supple 87
206 (8) 1433-0 Grand Royale (11) N Callaghan 3-8-9 ... K Darley 84
207 (9) 000300 Bandingham Blade (7) (D) K Ivory 3-8-3 ... A McCarthy (3) 83
208 (6) 500223 Bayleaf (25) (D) R Johnson Houghton 3-8-3 ... S Sanders 88
209 (1) 000500 Its All Relative (13) (D) J Berry 3-8-3 ... L Charnock 82

Betting: 2-1 Bayleaf, 11-4 Almaty, 7-2 Ya Malak, 10-1 Astrac, Moon Strike, Ziggy's Dancer, 14-1 Its All Relative.

FORM GUIDE - Almaty: Raced stands' side, led to halfway, soon ridden and beaten, 7th of 8, 43l behind Easycall at Doncaster 5f listed, Gd-Sft. Astrac: Prominent, ridden along 2f out, soon weakened, 10th of 11, 15l behind Superior Premium at Chester 6f hcap, Gd. Moon Strike: Dwelt, behind when not clear run and stumbled over 2f out, never nearer, 8th of 12, 43l behind Repertory at Epsom 5f hcap, Fm. Ya Malak: Steadied start, headway 2f out, ridden 1f out, one pace, 5th of 9, 5l behind Easycall at Leicester 5f stks, Gd-Sft. Ziggy's Dancer: Behind until some late headway, 14th of 29, 11l behind Always Alight at Ayr 6f hcap, Gd-Sft. Bayleaf: Held up, headway to challenge over 1f out, soon ridden and not quicken, 3rd of 7, 2l behind Tipsy Creek at Newmarket 6f listed, Gd-Fm. Its All Relative: Outpaced and lost place halfway, soon behind, 20th of 21, 17l behind Cadeaux Cher at Doncaster 6f hcap, Gd.

3.10 OIL SEED RAPE NOVICE AUCTION STAKES 2YO 5f £3,141 (14 declared)

301 (9) 2210 Open Secret (24) (D) A Stewart 8-11 ... K Fallon ●90
302 (14) 31540 Turtle's Rising (18) (D) B Meehan 8-8 ... G Hannon (7) 85
303 (1) 003000 Major Gamble (38) J J Quinn 8-7 ... J Carroll 81
304 (3) 130403 Sydney Safehands (7) (D) N Littmoden 8-6 ... S Sanders 87
305 (10) 1 Timeloe (25) A Bailey 8-5 ... A Mackay 89
306 (4) 0 Christopher Robin (34) J J Quinn 8-3 ... G Parkin 85
307 (6) Kingfisher Gold T Tate 8-3 ... G Carter —
308 (11) 0 Borton Lights (18) Mrs A Swinbank 8-2 ... W Supple 84
309 (2) 000326 Red Amazon (28) J Berry 8-2 ... P Bradley (7) 86
310 (7) 0 Wheels of Steel (6) J Leigh 8-2 ... L Newton 82
311 (13) 034134 Dazzling Quintet (24) (CD) C Smith 8-1 ... M Henry 88
312 (5) Aberteldy J Berry 7-11 ... P Fessey —
313 (2) 24425 Cool Katie (8) F Ryan 7-11 ... L Charnock 86
314 (12) Fan-Tc Gem J Balding 7-11 ... M Carlisle —

Betting: 4-1 Open Secret, Sydney Safehands, 5-1 Dazzling Quintet, 11-2 Timeloe, 7-1 Turtle's Rising, 8-1 Cool Katie, 12-1 Red Amazon, Aberteldy.

FORM GUIDE - Open Secret: Chased leaders, one pace final furlong, 10th of 27, 6l behind Amazing Dream at Curragh 6f sact, Gd. Turtle's Rising: In touch, effort 2f out, no impression, 9th of 13, 8l behind Sheer Viking at Doncaster 5f Grp 2, Gd-Fm. Major Gamble: Behind, some headway entering straight, never dangerous, 7th of 13, 19l behind Lashian Gold at Catterick 7f 2y sell, Gd-Fm. Sydney Safehands: Headway and not clear run over 1f out, ran on inside final furlong, 3rd of 12, 1¾l behind Sunley Sense at Sandown 5f hcap, Gd-Sft. Timeloe: Made most, kept on well towards finish, won by hd from Dahshah at Thirsk 6f mdn, Gd-Fm. Christopher Robin: Slowly into stride, always outpaced, 10th of 14, 16l behind Indian City at Leicester 6f 2y sell, Gd-Fm. Red Amazon: Raced wide, always in touch, kept on same pace final 2f, 6th of 16, 6l behind Sound's Ace at Beverley 5f 2y sell, Gd-Fm. Dazzling Quintet: Led until headed over 1f out, not quicken, 4th of 5, 3l behind Miss Fit at Redcar 5f nov, Gd-Fm. Cool Katie: Soon chasing leaders stands' side, kept on under pressure final 2f, 5th of 17, 3l behind Red Symphony at Musselburgh 5f hcap, Gd.

3.40 S.P.S. GROUP HANDICAP 7f 100yds £3,876 (17 declared)

401 (13) 235400 Ralds (8) (D) (BF) Mrs L Stubbs 8-10-0 ... K Darley 84
402 (16) 241302 Future Prospect (15) M Johnson 4-9-12 ... J Carroll 87
403 (7) 356010 Kass Alhawa (14) (CD) (BF) D Chapman 5-9-11 ... L Charnock 86
404 (7) (-3550) Belladera (8) B Meehan 3-9-11 ... G Hannon (7) 85
405 (1) 700023 Knave's Ash (8) (D) (BF) D Nicholls 7-9-9 ... Alex Greaves ●90
406 (6) 563152 Gymcrak Flyer (19) (CD) G Holmes 7-9-6 ... K Fallon ★ 88
407 (8) 613540 Etrick (14) Mrs B Waring 3-9-5 ... G Bardwell 86
408 (11) 626329 Steinbold (31) T Etherington 4-9-5 ... D Pears 87
409 (14) 532552 Rymer's Rascal (9) (CD) E Alston 6-9-4 ... W Supple 89
410 (17) 230100 Sructona Gold (34) (C) Mrs M Reveley 7-9-4 ... A Culhane 84
411 (2) 000-00 Cancer (17) D Nicholls 5-9-3 ... M Richardson 85
412 (15) 40-500 Mitigan Ocean (17) R Hollinshead 4-9-1 ... R Lappin 83
413 (5) 015035 Genuine John (8) (D) J Parkes 5-8-13 ... R Winston (3) ★ 85
414 (12) 006-05 Mr Speaker (14) C Wall 5-8-13 ... S Sanders 86
415 (4) 103430 Fancy A Fortune (33) (CD) D Nichols 4-8-13 ... A Nicholls (5) ★ 88
416 (9) 050640 Wolf'n'Sea (28) M W Easterby 3-8-13 ... S Finnamore (7) 85
417 (10) 523110 Gablesea (20) (D) B Baugh 4-8-12 ... Dale Gibson 84

Betting: 5-1 Knave's Ash, 6-1 Gymcrak Flyer, 7-1 Future Prospect, 8-1 Ralds, 10-1 Kass Alhawa, Rymer's Rascal, Genuine John, Mr Speaker.

FORM GUIDE - Future Prospect: Close up, ridden over 2l out, kept on well towards finish, 3rd of 10, 1l behind Wust Venture at Hamilton 1m hcap, Sft. Knave's Ash: Tracked leaders, not clear run 2f out, every chance final furlong, no extra, 3rd of 18, 1¾l behind Master Caster, with Genuine John (rec 5lb) 5th, btn 3¾l, at Beverley 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Gymcrak Flyer: Behind, good headway over 2f out, stayed on final furlong, 2nd of 24, 2l behind Royal Result at York 7f hcap, Gd. Etrick: Chased leaders, ridden over 3l out, soon behind, last of 9, 16l behind Easycall at Leicester 5f stks, Gd-Sft. Rymer's Rascal: Started slowly, headway over 1f out, ran on inside final furlong, 3rd of 16, 4l behind Grangeville, with Ralds (gave 8lb) 10th, btn 10l, at Sandown 7f hcap, Gd-Sft. Mr Speaker: Tracked leaders, led well over 1f out, soon headed and beaten, 6th of 18, 4l behind King Lino, with Kass Alhawa (gave 12lb) 9th, btn 8l, at Leicester 7f hcap, Gd-Sft.

4.10 WINTER BARLEY HANDICAP 1m 100yds £3,825 (16 declared)

501 (13) -01050 Nostharpe (55) (CD) J Glover 9-7 ... S D Williams 84
502 (16) 41000 Myzomela (71) (D) J Gosden 9-7 ... J Carroll 81
503 (11) 40-203 Meyassir (33) P Makin 9-5 ... S Sanders 86
504 (7) 252021 Master Caster (6) (6lb ex) (CD) Mrs J Ramsden 8-3 ... K Fallon ●90
505 (1) 212201 Hit The Spot (7) (6lb ex) (D) W Haggas 9-3 ... P Robinson 89
506 (5) 1-6000 Panama House (18) (D) T Easterby 9-2 ... K Darley 80
507 (10) 660135 Amoroso (8) C Thornton 8-11 ... Dean McKeown 87
508 (4) 322161 Marsko Machine (14) (C) N Tinkler 8-11 ... J Weaver ★ 88
509 (2) 260230 Ollie's Chuckle (45) J J Quinn 8-9 ... G Parkin 85
510 (6) 005605 Micalliance (57) C Wall 8-8 ... R Mullen (3) 84
511 (15) 031301 Margaret's Dancer (17) (D) J Eyre 8-5 ... C Lowther 87
512 (12) 66-030 Lake Taal (17) (BF) Miss J A Camacho 8-5 ... L Charnock 83
513 (3) -20000 King Of Dance (14) B Rothwell 8-1 ... R Winston (3) ★ 79
514 (9) 526000 Counsel (5) D Chapman 7-13 ... T Williams 78
515 (14) 542605 Petara (14) J Wainwright 7-12 ... W Supple ★ 86
516 (8) 000002 Mrs Middle (22) D Chapman 7-10 ... J McAuley (7) 86

Betting: 5-1 Master Caster, 11-2 Hit The Spot, 6-1 Marsko Machine, 8-1 Meyassir, 10-1 Myzomela, Ollie's Chuckle, 12-1 Panama House, Amoroso, Micalliance, Petara.

FORM GUIDE - Myzomela: Prominent until weakened over 2f out, 9th of 10, 15l behind Shaleef at Windsor 1m 8ls hcap, Gd. Meyassir: Headway over 2f out, hampered over 1f out, ran on inside final furlong, 3rd of 15, 1¾l behind Saley Ana at Salisbury 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Master Caster: Tracked leaders, headway over 1l out, ridden to lead well inside final furlong, won by 3l from Tipperary Sunset at Beverley 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Hit The Spot: Headway over 2f out, led well over 1f out, hard ridden, ran on well, won by 2l from Kennet at Sandown 1m hcap, Gd. Marsko Machine: Headway over 3l out, ran on well to lead well inside final furlong, won by ¾l from Knave's Ash, with Petara (rec 6lb) 5th of 18, btn 8l, at Newcastle 1m1f hcap, Gd-Fm. Ollie's Chuckle: Tracked leaders, lost place over 2f out, 8th of 10, 15l behind Include Me Out at Redcar 1m 2f mdn hcap, Gd-Fm. Micalliance: Held up, ridden 4f out, weakened over 1l out, 3rd of 5, 9l behind Tomado Prince at Folkestone 1m 2f hcap, Gd-Fm.

4.40 END OF SEASON HANDICAP (DIV 1) 1m 2f £3,388 (19 declared)

601 (12) 504023 Massyar Seventeen (38) (D) (BF) P D'Arcy 4-9-11 ... C Lowther 88
602 (16) 00-640 Silver Secret (53) S Gollings 4-9-10 ... K Darley 86
603 (6) 553204 Chimes Of Peace (19) J Eyre 3-9-6 ... R Winston (3) 87
604 (8) /45010 Elusive Star (J17) (C) Mrs M Reveley 8-9-6 ... A Culhane ●90
605 (2) -0000P Ringleader (78) N Tinkler 3-9-4 ... J Weaver ★ 84
606 (19) 00/5-0 Lucky Bea (7) G Holmes 5-9-2 ... J Carroll ★ 83
607 (7) 000003 Ribble Assembly (14) K Ryan 3-9-0 ... T Lucas ★ 88
608 (15) 000005 Tajine (17) P Harris 3-8-13 ... S Sanders 85
609 (11) 0-5000 Meazoom (J38) M Sowersby 3-8-12 ... D Pears 82
610 (1) 003002 Lady Of Spain (24) J Leigh 3-8-11 ... Dean McKeown 86
611 (9) 5-0140 Northern Accord (5) (BF) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-10 ... K Fallon 85
612 (17) 000000 Bold Sarah (15) R Hollinshead 4-8-8 ... A McCarthy (3) 79
613 (5) 000/0- Whitegate's Son (J284) B Ellison 4-8-8 ... J McAuley (7) 75
614 (14) 00/2-3 Dancing-Alone (31) D Morris 6-8-8 ... R Studholme (5) 86
615 (18) 500-00 Dimaktar (73) W Brisbourne 6-8-5 ... S Maloney 81
616 (13) 434550 Dr Woodstock (24) W Storey 4-8-5 ... T Williams 85
617 (3) 042630 Comic Hill (20) (CD) J Pearce 7-8-3 ... G Bardwell 84
618 (4) 080000 Anchor Venture (28) (D) D Chapman 5-8-2 ... L Charnock 80
619 (10) 050220 Get A Life (24) M Britain 5-7-10 ... D Mernagh (5) ★ 86

Betting: 9-2 Ribble Assembly, 5-1 Massyar Seventeen, Chimes Of Peace, Elusive Star, 7-1 Silver Secret, 12-1 Ringleader, Tajine, Meazoom, Lady Of Spain.

FORM GUIDE - Massyar Seventeen: Prominent, led well over 1l out, soon headed, weakened final furlong, 3rd of 10, 4l behind Tajar at Warwick 1m3l stks, Gd-Fm. Silver Secret: Never nearer, 10th of 15, 6l behind Flag Fen at Newmarket 1m2l hcap, Gd-Fm. Chimes Of Peace: Chased leaders, edged left and kept on same pace approaching final furlong, 4th of 22, 5l behind Once More For Luck at York 1m2f app hcap, Gd. Elusive Star: In touch, effort over 2f out, soon beaten, 8th of 13, 7l behind Our People at Redcar 1m3f hcap, Gd-Fm. Ringleader: Prominent until broke blood vessel and pulled up in race won by Bay Of Delight at Beverley 1m app hcap, Gd. Ribble Assembly: Slowly into stride, soon chasing leaders, one pace final 3l, 3rd of 18, 6l behind Marsko Machine at Newcastle 1m1f hcap, Gd-Fm.

5.10 END OF SEASON HANDICAP (DIV 2) 1m 2f £3,388 (19 declared)

1 (10) -04140 Darling Clover (18) (CD) R Bastiman 6-9-10 ... H Bastiman (5) 87
2 (17) 222105 Ten Past Six (8) (D) M Wane 6-9-10 ... J Carroll ★ ●90
3 (16) 530328 Ambidextrous (8) (D) E Alston 6-9-8 ... W Supple 89
4 (6) 622650 Augustan (8) (D) S Gollings 7-9-6 ... K Fallon 85
5 (3) 100130 Tajar (4) (D) T Kedey 6-9-5 ... K Darley 86
6 (4) /31256 Tapatch (19) (D) M W Easterby 10-9-3 ... G Parkin ★ 88
7 (7) 103300 Sea Ya Maite (17) S Bowring 4-9-0 ... Dale Gibson 83
8 (9) 0/0-15 The Real Mccoy (180) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-0 ... S Sanders 87
9 (1) 50-400 Linea-G (24) Mrs M Reveley 4-8-12 ... S Copp (5) 82
10 (15) -06000 Oxbane (3) Mrs S Lamyman 4-8-11 ... C Teague (3) 79
11 (13) 204510 Portite Sophie (5) M Britain 7-8-9 ... D Mernagh (5) 86
12 (2) 650000 Portuguese Lil (8) M Sowersby 5-8-8 ... D Pears 78
13 (18) -06510 Moonlight Flit (6) (C) (D) J Eyre 3-8-6 ... C Lowther 87
14 (16) 000000 Il Majbaldd (66) Mrs H Walton 4-8-6 ... A Culhane 77
15 (14) 30645- Ankra Lady (320) J J O'Neill 3-8-5 ... R Lappin 81
16 (8) -04260 Second Term (53) W Storey 3-8-4 ... T Williams 82
17 (12) -62600 Acquittal (22) A Streeter 6-8-3 ... A Daly (5) 82
18 (5) 040461 Stolen Music (24) (CD) R Barr 5-7-12 ... J McAuley (7) 88
19 (11) 000360 Macari (22) B Baugh 4-7-10 ... L Charnock 84

Betting: 11-2 Ten Past Six, Ambidextrous, Augustan, 8-1 Darling Clover, Tajar, Tapatch, Sea Ya Maite, The Real Mccoy, Linea-G, Oxbane.

FORM GUIDE - Darling Clover: Always behind, 19th of 22, 37l behind Once More For Luck at York 1m 2f app hcap, Gd. Ten Past Six: With leader, disputed lead 3f out, no extra inside final furlong, 5th of 16, 3l behind Once More For Luck at Musselburgh 1m 4l hcap, Gd, with Ambidextrous, held up and behind, headway over 2l out, never able challenge, finished 6th, btn 3l and Augustan (rec 4lb), in touch, not clear run 2f out, not recover, finished 9th, btn 7l. Tajar: Headway 2f out, weakened over 1f out, 11th of 21, 16l behind Arctic Fancy at Newbury 1m 4l ladies hcap, Gd. Tapatch: Mid-division, headway over 2f out, kept on, never reached leaders, 6th of 22, 9l behind Once More For Luck at York 1m 2f app hcap, Gd. Sea Ya Maite: In touch, ridden when not much room over 2f out, soon beaten, 11th of 17, 15l behind House Of Dreams at Thirsk 1m 4f hcap, Gd. The Real Mccoy: Led, edged right and headed 2f out, stayed on one pace, 5th of 17, 6l behind No Cliches at Doncaster 1m 2f hcap, Gd-Sft. Linea-G: Rear division, effort 3f out, edged left, never dangerous, 10th of 13, 8l behind Our People at Redcar 1m 3f hcap, Gd-Fm. Oxbane: Soon behind, headway and edged left over 1l out, stayed on towards finish, 8th of 17, 3l behind Celandine at Catterick 7f 8s hcap, Gd-Fm.

Fontwell (N.H.)

	TONY PALEY	TOP FORM
2.20	Bretache	Siena
2.50	Zara Zareen	Stapleford Lady
3.20	Palladium Boy	Palladium Boy
3.50	Hit The Bid	Canton Venture
4.20	Sharp Embrace	Gladstone
4.50	Onefrowillie	Onelorwillie

Hurdles course left-handed oval of about 1m; chase course a figure of eight. Both favour the handy type of horse.
Going: Good to Firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 2.20 Bretache, 2.50 Little Miss Rocker. Visored: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F,Flat.

2.20 CARLSBERG-TETLEY JUVENILE NOVICE HURDLE 3YO 2m 2f 110yds £2,250 (9 declared)

1 Bayadi (F37) D Gandolfo 10-10 ... C Llewellyn —
2 0 Falkenberg (8) B Pearce 10-10 ... M Scales (7) 84
3 R56 Goldenacres (8) M Muggeridge 10-10 ... D Creech (7) 86
4 34 Guaranteed (43) Miss K George 10-10 ... N Kavanagh (7) 89
5 Inn On The Park (P142) S Dow 10-10 ... M A Fitzgerald —
6 Bretache (P118) M Pipe 10-5 ... A P McCoy ★ —
7 Dudeen (F115) T McGovern 10-5 ... S Durack (3) —
8 0 Secret Tango (17) J R Best 10-5 ... L Cummins (5) 85
9 06 Siena (27) Miss K George 10-5 ... B Massey (5) ●90

Betting: 4-9 Bretache, 11-2 Guaranteed, 8-1 Siena, 12-1 Bayadi, 15-1 Dudeen, 20-1 Inn On The Park.

2.50 BRITVIC SOFT DRINKS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 2f 110yds £2,145 (13 declared)

1 61U4/ Governor Daniel (801) (D) I Williams 7-12-0 ... R Widger (3) 83
2 6P60- Urgent Reply (F15) C Dwyer 5-11-3 ... R Farrant 82
3 0003/ Zara Zareen (1150) M Pipe 7-11-0 ... A P McCoy 79
4 PF1-6U Safety (8) J Cullinan 11-11-0 ... Mr J Crowley (7) ★ 88
5 1555- Little Miss Rocker (F20) G L Moore 4-10-13 ... M Batchelor (5) ★ 88
6 405-53 Stapleford Lady (19) (CD) J S Moore 10-10-11 ... S Durack (3) ●90
7 42P-00 Trust Me Bold (F22) P Bowen 6-10-7 ... W Marston 82
8 320034 Mutawali (10) R Ford 8-10-7 ... V Slattery 86
9 -65005 Welsh Park (18) C Weedon 5-10-3 ... D Gallagher ★ 86
10 -83504 Royal Circus (17) (D) P Hiatt 9-10-0 ... E Husband 87
11 5-550F Never Golf Charmer (22) C Morlock 4-10-0 ... G Tormey 84
12 543-20 Chopin (10) (CD) K Wingrove 4-10-0 ... J Power (7) ★ 86
13 6P0P-4 Adilov (22) (CD) J Bridger 6-10-0 ... Sophie Mitchell 85

Betting: 9-2 Zara Zareen, 11-2 Safety, 13-2 Stapleford Lady, 7-1 Mutawali, 8-1 Welsh Park, Chopin, 10-1 Urgent Reply, Little Miss Rocker, Royal Circus.

3.20 CALDER'S CREAM ALE HANDICAP CHASE 2m 3f £2,835 (8 declared)

1 0-2514 Palladium Boy (22) (BF) M Pipe 8-11-10 ... A P McCoy ●90
2 21-325 Indian Temple (22) (D) K Bishop 7-11-3 ... G Supple (3) 87
3 P-PP3P Chester (4) Mrs L Richards 7-11-2 ... M Richards ★ 86
4 /4552- Lasata (285) R Curtis 13-10-10 ... J Power (7) 84
5 P12-05 Ryton Run (22) (CD) Mrs S Odell 13-10-6 ... J Culloty 85
6 P-0PP0 Cyrill Henry (60) (C) Simon Earle 9-10-3 ... P Holley 81
7 4UPP- Master Bomber (295) R Buckler 7-10-2 ... B Powell 79
8 6-P0P6 Goblish (22) (CD) B Scriven 13-10-0 ... Mr O McPhail (5) 84

Betting: 4-5 Palladium Boy, 9-2 Indian Temple, 8-1 Chester, 7-1 Lasata, 8-1 Ryton Run.

3.50 TETLEY'S BITTER HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 6f 110yds £2,338 (7 declared)

1 -F3422 Canton Venture (8) (C) S Woods 6-11-11 ... P Hide ●90
2 312642 High Summer (11) (D) C Mann 8-10-11 ... C Rafter (7) 88
3 00000- You're Agoodun (185) M Pipe 6-10-3 ... A P McCoy 86
4 021112 Hit The Bid (1) (CD) I Williams 7-10-0 ... R Widger (3) 88
5 0203-P Touring-Turtle (50) (D) M Muggeridge 6-10-0 ... B Powell 84
6 56-543 Gerry's Pride (22) (CD) J Mullins 7-10-0 ... A Bates (3) 87
7 22/P0U Clowater Lady (8) T D McCarthy 9-10-0 ... D Barrows (5) 77

Betting: 2-1 Canton Venture, 3-1 Hit The Bid, 7-2 High Summer, 9-2 You're Agoodun, 10-1 Gerry's Pride, 20-1 Touring-Turtle, 33-1 Clowater Lady.

4.20 CARLSBERG LAGER NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE 3m 2f 110yds £3,063 (7 declared)

1 6P5331 Gladstone (19) (CD) Miss S Baxter 9-11-10 ... Gary Lyons ●90
2 -5P032 Sharp Embrace (10) M Pipe 5-11-3 ... A P McCoy ★ 88
3 250/51 Hyters Chance (27) P Hobbs 7-11-3 ... R Widger (7) 87
4 -83622 Via Del Quatro (19) J Mullins 6-11-1 ... David Turner (7) 88
5 2/0PUP Lord Lofty (8) J R Best 8-11-0 ... L Cummins (5) 84
6 P0P4P- Danzante (134) D Morris 6-10-8 ... B Powell 81
7 /R24-4 Denny's Guess (11) P Bowen 10-10-7 ... W Marston 86

Betting: 9-4 Sharp Embrace, 11-4 Gladstone, 3-1 Hyters Chance, 7-2 Via Del Quatro, 20-1 Danzante, 25-1 Denny's Guess, 33-1 Lord Lofty.

4.50 CASTLEMAINE XXXX NOVICE HURDLE 2m 6f 110yds £2,338 (9 declared)

1 PP-31 Onelorwillie (11) P Bowen 5-11-3 ... W Marston ●90
2 6F-851 Persistence Pays (22) W G M Turner 4-11-1 ... J Power (7) 88
3 6PP5/P Bonderboing (11) J Joseph 8-10-10 ... L Harvey 86
4 /00P-3 Cool Norman (12) B De Haan 6-10-10 ... C Llewellyn 87
5 0000/ Country Boy (993) J Bridger 7-10-10 ... M Batchelor (5) 78
6 22PP-U Moses Man (8) J Ffitch-Heyes 7-10-10 ... L Cummins (5) 79
7 400/0- The Croppy Boy (302) J Neville 6-10-10 ... R Johnson 80
8 00- Tiger Lake (P17) S Dow 5-10-10 ... M A Fitzgerald 86
9 46053- Certain Surprise (P132) M Madgwick 4-10-3 ... B Fenton 87

Betting: 11-10 Onelorwillie, 5-1 Tiger Lake, 6-1 Cool Norman, Certain Surprise, 8-1 Persistence Pays, 12-1 The Croppy Boy, 25-1 Moses Man.

KEEPING TRACK

0891 222 +

	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
BEVERLEY	771	781
WARWICK	772	782
FONTWELL	773	783
ALL COURSES COMMENTARY	0891 222 780	
ALL COURSES RESULTS	0891 222 790	

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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Results

KEMPTON

1.50 (7f): 1, MORNING MUSIC, R Hughes (7-1); 2, Dashiba (6-4 fav); 3, Conyforce Girl (50-1). 18 ran. ½, 2. (R Hannon) Tote: £9.10; £2.10, £1.40, £17.00. Dual F: £7.90. CSF: £15.89.

2.25 (6f): 1, DODO, N Pollard (20-1); 2, Fairy Prince (33-1); 3, Indian Brave (14-1); 4, Double March (14-1). 13-2 fav Bintang Timor. 28 ran. 1¾, 2¾, 1¼. (D Elsworth) Tote: £32.20; £6.30, £7.10, £2.30, £4.00. Dual F: £715.30. CSF: £514.02. Tricast: £8,307.64.

3.00 (1m): 1, THE GREEN GREY, Martin Dwyer (20-1); 2, Super Monarch (10-1); 3, Daintree (16-1); 4, Samara Song (14-1). 4-1 fav Tightrope. 18 ran. ½, nk, ½. (Derrick Morris) Tote: £17.10; £3.60, £2.10, £3.40, £4.30. Dual F: £212.00. CSF: £179.50. Tricast: £3,076.49. Trifecta: £5,023.60.

3.30 (1m 4f): 1, EDWARDIAN, Pat Eddery (100-30); 2, Sheek (3-1 fav); 3, Cloak of Darkness (5-1). 8 ran. 1¾, nk. (Mrs A Perrett) Tote: £3.40; £1.70, £1.70. Dual F: £5.60. CSF: £12.07.

4.00 (1m 3f 30yds): 1, ETERNITY, R Hughes (9-2); 2, Cabcharge Blue (16-1); 3, City Gambler (15-1); 4, Sure Quest (15-2). 100-30 fav Misconduct. 18 ran. ¾, hd, 1. (J Fanshawe) Tote: £6.00; £1.80, £2.60, £1.60, £3.60. Dual F: £98.20. CSF: £69.74. Tricast: £1,012.08.

4.35 (1m 4f): 1, LEAR'S CROWN, T Sprake (20-1); 2, Aega d'Honor (50-1); 3, Kaaria (14-1). 9-4 fav Cattiva. 14 ran. 1¾, nk. (Mrs A Perrett) Tote: £33.70; £5.10, £9.10, £2.40. Dual F: £340.60. CSF: £720.29.

5.05 (1m): 1, PEACE OF MIND, T Sprake (11-8 fav); 2, Lightning Arrow (11-4); 3, Peculiarity (16-3). 17 ran. Hd, 1¾. (R Charlton) Tote: £2.10; £1.20, £1.40, £2.60. Dual F: £2.60. CSF: £4.83.

5.35 (7f): 1, COFFEE CREAM, Pat Eddery (2-1); 2, Trawling (14-1); 3, Fee Mail (14-1). 7-4 fav Pleasing Prospect. 14 ran. 2, 3. (B Meehan) Tote: £3.30; £1.40, £3.00, £3.40. Dual F: £35.50. CSF: £29.28. NR: Milne's Dream.

JACKPOT: Not won, £482,885.75 carried forward to Beverley.

PLACEPOT: £3,113.90. QUADPOT: £548.20.

LEICESTER

2.20 (5f 2yds): 1, DIL, P McCabe (20-1); 2, High Carry (8-1); 3, Stateyork (16-1); 4, Rushcutter Bay (16-1). 6-1 Fav Cauda Equina. 20 ran. ½, nk, shd. (Mrs N Macauley) Tote: £34.70; £9.00, £3.50, £3.10, £2.00. Dual F: £174.60. CSF: £163.25. Tricast: £2,458.98. NR: Brecongill Lad.

2.50 (7f 9yds): 1, AL WAFFI, L Dettori (8-13 fav); 2, Red Delirium (7-4); 3, Game Tufty (50-1). 6 ran. Nk, 8. (D Loder) Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £1.10. Dual F: £1.10. CSF: £1.80.

3.20 (1m 1f 218yds): 1, LUCKY DOUBLE, Dane O'Neill (5-1); 2, Bentarone (33-1); 3, Arsenia (5-4 fav). 18 ran. 5, 1¼. (R Hannon) Tote: £6.50; £2.40, £9.60, £1.30. Dual F: £567.60. CSF: £161.07.

3.50 (5f 218yds): 1, ISLE OF SODOR, Dean McKeown (10-1); 2, Sari (10-1); 3, Patsy Stone (20-1); 4, Bedfari Anna (10-1). 11-2 jt-fav Clunie, Lady Bewara. 21 ran. 1, 1½, 1¾. (K Hogg) Tote: £13.40; £2.80, £2.90, £7.20, £2.50. Dual F: £121.20. CSF: £98.70. Tricast: £1,645.66. NR: Sound's Ace. Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 5p in the pound.

4.20 (5f 218yds): 1, STATELY PRINCESS, G Carter (8-1); 2, Binney Prince (10-1); 3, Tailwind (20-1). 100-30 fav Majelis. 22 ran. ¾, 1½. (M Channon) Tote: £7.80; £4.10, £2.00, £21.60. Dual F: £95.50. CSF: £59.59.

4.50 (1m 8yds): 1, ONEFORTHEDITCH, G Carter (10-1); 2, Ebene Academy (18-1); 3, Miss Money Spider (9-2 fav). 20 ran. Nk, ¾. (J Fanshawe) Tote: £17.30; £4.60, £3.40, £3.50. Dual F: £175.40. CSF: £85.93.

PLACEPOT: £687.60. QUADPOT: £125.60.

HEREFORD

2.10 (2m 1f Hdle): 1, DAVOSKI, R Dunwoody (5-4 fav); 2, Galapino (5-1); 3, Gajan (10-1). 11 ran. ¾, hd. (Miss Venetia Williams) Tote: £2.30; £1.20, £2.10, £2.10. Dual F: £4.70. CSF: £4.56. Non Runner: Ekans.

2.40 (2m 3f Ch): 1, SUPER SHARP, V Slattery (6-1); 2, Shinnko Hills (6-1); 3, Ekeus (10-1). 5-2 fav Verde Luna. 11 ran. Hd, 1¾. (Ian Williams) Tote: £8.60; £2.50, £3.00, £4.40. Dual F: £21.70. CSF: £44.20. Tricast: £343.57.

3.10 (3m 2f Hdle): 1, SHARP THYNE, G Tormey (11-1); 2, Hit The Bid (Evens Fav); 3, Nevada Gold (10-1). 6 ran. 27, 19. (P Hobbs) Tote: £9.00; £2.30, £2.20. Dual F: £12.50. CSF: £23.75. NR: Miss Souter.

3.40 (2m 1f Hdle): 1, RAKE HEY, Chris Webb (8-1); 2, Highbury Legend (5-4 fav); 3, Surabaya (9-2). 13 ran. Nk, 1¾. (S Mellor) Tote: £9.20; £2.40, £1.20, £2.00. Dual F: £14.60. CSF: £20.83. NR: Tut.

4.10 (3m 1f 110yds Ch): 1, ZINGIBAR, B Fenton (9-1); 2, Gaelsnock Lad (4-1); 3, Derring Bridge (15-8). 7-4 fav Valiss Vale. 8 ran. 1¾, 3¾. (J Bradley) Tote: £13.10; £2.70, £1.80, £1.20. Dual F: £13.30. CSF: £41.91. Tricast: £69.75.

4.40 (2m 3f 110yds Hdle): 1, POWDER MONKEY, S Durack (11-4 jt-fav); 2, Andy Clyde (11-4 jt-fav); 3, Le Grand Gousier (12-1). 7 ran. 1¾, 5. (T Needham) Tote: £4.10; £2.20, £2.60. Dual F: £9.20. CSF: £11.25.

PLACEPOT: £90.70. QUADPOT: £13.90.

Football

Premiership: Blackburn Rovers 3 Chelsea 4

Flo double gives fighting Chelsea a rich reward

Ian Ross

TWO goals in the final seven minutes by the substitute Tore Andre Flo gave Chelsea an exhilarating victory in east Lancashire last night.

After Chris Sutton seemed to have rewarded Blackburn's Rovers' persistence with a penalty 11 minutes before the final whistle, Flo improbably struck twice to secure Chelsea's win.

Earlier in the day Blackburn's manager Roy Hodgson delivered a reasoned defence of his team's erratic opening to a campaign which, after all, still holds the promise of better things.

It was, perhaps, more a plea for patience than an explanation or apology. Hodgson is acutely aware of the power which lies dormant in all disenchanted supporters.

In proffering the traditional "ill fortune" theory, Hodgson was on relatively safe ground for if his side is not quite as good as he would like to believe, it is nothing like as barren of thought as recent performances might suggest.

But the same could be said of Chelsea, a jigsaw puzzle and a team which could almost have been designed to reinforce the belief that football is not only a perverse sport but a simple game which can be made to appear difficult.

Chelsea can play beautifully when things click. But there are still ghosts in the machine. Indeed last night arguably their most spirited player, Brian Laudrup, was omitted at the start as Gianluca Vialli underlines the point that these days even world-class players must patiently wait for approval.

Still, a combination of Gianfranco Zola and Pierluigi Casiraghi made the Blackburn defence look at best disorganised and at worst embarrassingly porous.

There is a fragility to Blackburn's back line which will worry those who lament the departure of Colin Hendry to Rangers, a fragility which sustained Chelsea's optimism even when their football lacked invention.

Having comfortably repelled Blackburn's confident thrust, Chelsea settled nicely and after Gustavo Poyet's header had clipped the angle of post and crossbar, they deservedly moved in front after 15 minutes.

Zola may be something of a diminishing force but he can still deliver a masterful free-kick; this time it was a sweet, rising drive just inside Tim Flowers's right-hand post.

Blackburn might have folded but within seven minutes were level, Martin Dahlin being given sufficient time in the penalty area to find Sutton, who rounded Graeme Le Saux before steering in his first goal of the season.

Only five minutes into an equally combative second period one of Chelsea's countless attacks appeared to have fallen apart at the death as Zola chased a Celestine Babayaro pass as it rolled away from goal and towards the dead-ball line.

But Tim Flowers left his line and went down at the feet of the Italian. Zola fell, or perhaps he was felled, and Frank Leboeuf speared home from the penalty spot as the natives revolted.

Chelsea again held the lead for just seven minutes. Having pulled Leboeuf out of position, Garry Flitcroft coaxed the ball back across and before goalkeeper Ed De Goey could intervene Sebastien Perez had turned it in.

It was Perez's last contribution. Ten minutes later he was sent off along with Chelsea's Le Saux after the pair exchanged blows on the touchline.

Blackburn Rovers (4–4–2): Flowers; Dailly, Peacock, Henchoz, Davidson; Perez, Flitcroft, Sherwood, Wilcox (McKinlay, 79min); Sutton, Dahlin. **Chelsea** (4–4–2): De Goey; Ferrer, Leboeuf, Duberry, Le Saux; Poyet, Desailly, Wise (Di Matteo, 53), Babayaro; Zola (Laudrup,70), Casiraghi (Flo, 79). **Referee** P Jones (Loughborough).



Jumping Gianfranco . . . Zola soars in celebration of his free-kick which gave Chelsea the lead at Ewood Park last night PHOTOGRAPH BEN RADFORD

Villa are hot on the Cole trail

Peter White

ASTON VILLA hope to prise Andy Cole away from Old Trafford and will take careful note of Alex Ferguson's team selection for Liverpool's visit on Thursday as the striker continues to fall down the Manchester United pecking order.

John Gregory wants to replace Dwight Yorke, who moved to Manchester United last month, and would be prepared to pay around £7.5 million for Cole.

Cole failed to make the bench for United's 3–0 defeat at Arsenal on Sunday, when Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was relegated to substitute and Ryan Giggs moved up front.

Villa had wanted Cole to be included in a package deal for Yorke, but Ferguson refused to do business. Cole, 26, started United's first four matches, scoring one goal, and partnered Yorke on his debut at West Ham, but he lost his place to Solskjaer and has been out of the starting line-up since.

If Cole moves, it may herald the end of Stan Collymore's troubled spell at Villa, who would take £4 million for the striker. Wolves want to take him on loan but cannot afford his £20,000-a-week wages.

Villa's goalkeeper Mark Bosnich has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association over alleged remarks to spectators at Everton on August 15. His comments were included in a police report of the incident.

Neil Shipperley has completed his £1.5 million move from Crystal Palace to Nottingham Forest despite a hernia problem that could eventually require surgery.

The 23-year-old striker agreed personal terms with Forest but cannot make his debut tonight against Leyton Orient in the Worthington Cup because he is cup-tied.

Forest's manager Dave Bassett said: "A lot of players these days manage to play on with hernias. Andy Johnson has a similar problem but he's still in our team at the moment. Neil will let us know when he's in so much discomfort that he can't carry on."

Norwich have signed Celtic's defender Malkie Mackay for £350,000 two days after taking him on loan. Celtic have bought Norway's midfielder Vidar Riseth, 26, from the Austrian club Lask Linz for about £1 million. He left Luton Town two years ago for £90,000.

Ron Atkinson has turned down an offer to become coach of South Africa. "The time wasn't right for me to become a national coach," he said. "Many people consider it is the pinnacle of your career but I wouldn't subscribe 100 per cent to that." Atkinson, 59, left Sheffield Wednesday at the end of last season.

PFA investigates heading risks, page 15

Formula One's Ecclestone owns up to TV talks with Super League

Vivek Chaudhary and **Alan Henry** report on what the man who made millions from motor racing wants with European football

THE Formula One impresario Bernie Ecclestone confessed yesterday that there is one head-to-head race he definitely does not want to be involved in: the race to buy Manchester United.

After a weekend of reports linking him to a rival takeover bid for the club, Ecclestone emerged to deny any desire to buy United but at the same time admitted he is involved in plans to set up a European Super League.

"I am not in the slightest bit interested in buying a football club," said Ecclestone, who controls all grand-prix racing's commercial activities as president of the Formula One Constructors' Association (Foca).

"I don't know where people get these things. The last thing I would ever do is go head-to-head with Rupert Murdoch. It wouldn't make sense."

What would make sense, however, for the man who has helped transform F1 into a multimillion-pound global television show, is to lend his expertise to the proposed Super League. The league's success will depend almost entirely on live pay-per-view coverage, an area Ecclestone can claim to have pioneered and mastered.

"I've been discussing the current situation with Media Partners for eight months," said Ecclestone, referring to the Italian company behind the Super League plan. "My involvement would be a set-up thing rather than day-to-day management, but I don't know what the extent of my investment would be."

The proposed elite league might be tailor-made for the 67-year-old, who was one of the first sports promoters to rival Murdoch in spotting the potential for digital pay-per-view channels. He has moved F1 into pole position in this rapidly growing area.

While host broadcasters still provide the grand-prix pictures for terrestrial television, Ecclestone has spent £40 million in designing, building and operating a self-contained digital-television studio which is transported to all races. Foca TV, the F1 digital channel he owns, took £15 million to set up, costs £30 million a year to run and has a staff of 150.

Ecclestone's vision in ensuring that F1 owns the global rights to all its races has paid off in hard cash and worldwide celebrity status for him and the drivers.

Overall the sport has a staggering 330 million global audience for each race, is worth £2.5 billion and each grand prix is beamed live to 130 countries. One season generates £600 million in revenue for Ecclestone's companies alone.

His F1 pay-per-view digital service gives access to five separate channels and provides unrestricted coverage with statistics, exclusive interviews, cockpit shots and pit-lane perspectives thrown in.

That massive infrastructure and technical know-how could easily be transferred to the football arena. Officially Media Partners denies that it has been in negotiations with Ecclestone or that he is funding the Super League, but sources close to both parties have confirmed that informal contact has taken place and that Ecclestone could play an influential role in setting up the television coverage.



Ecclestone . . . vast wealth

One source said: "Given the technology he already has available and his expertise, it would make sense to talk to him. It would almost be negligent not to.

"Clearly Ecclestone is a major player in this area [digital television] and has a lot to offer. There are still a lot of unanswered questions, like how do you televise Super League matches? He's an obvious person to take on that kind of role."

Given Ecclestone's vast personal fortune, estimated at anything up to £1.5 billion, money is hardly the motivating factor behind his desire to get a slice of the Super League cake. This has prompted rumours that he may be fed up with F1 and want out altogether, with Murdoch favourite to buy the rights.

Last summer Ecclestone spent a lot of time investigating the possibilities of a stock-market flotation for his F1 companies, which investment bankers Salomon Brothers estimated could be worth up to £2.5 billion. They are, incidentally, the same bankers who are reported to be brokering a rival bid for United from a mystery buyer.

It might not turn out to be Ecclestone but that does not mean that the wily supremo will not be involved in football in one way or another.

Overseas football

De Boers step out for Ajax as Barcelona slash their offer

Chris Taylor

FRANK and Ronald de Boer turned out for Ajax for the first time this season at the weekend but the Dutch international twins' minds, and their future, are in Spain.

Ronald set up the Amsterdam side's goal in a disappointing 1–1 draw with lowly De Graafschap but the brothers are only reluctant members of the Ajax team after a court ruled that they must honour their contracts — which have four years to run — despite their desire to join the former Ajax coach Louis van Gaal at Barcelona.

The De Boers share an agent with Pierre van Hooijdonk so it would be no surprise if the court judgment represents only a temporary hitch. Under a compromise the twins should be on their way to the Catalan club at the end of the season although the Barcelona president, Josep Lluis Nunez, said yesterday he had reduced his offer to £12.4 million.

"It is still an attractive offer but we have offered 10 per cent less because a year will have passed by the time they come to play for us," he said.

While Barcelona wait for the De Boers, the club's latest Dutch addition, Patrick Kluivert, scored his first goal, against Real Madrid.

Kluivert's tardy arrival — too late for the Champions League group stages — was greeted with some confusion in Catalonia. A few months back Van Gaal said he was in the market for a left-sided attacker, a left-sided central defender and a right-sided midfielder. He bought Boudewijn Zenden for the first role and the De Boers were meant to fill the other positions.

Instead he bought a player — the third-highest earner at the club behind Rivaldo and Guardiola — apparently designed to fill Ronaldo's old No. 9 shirt. Nothing wrong there except that, as Manchester United can testify, Barcelona already have the Brazilian Sonny Anderson doing exactly that.

Saturday's result was no help in predicting which of the two will win out — Anderson added a late second to secure a 2–2 draw.

As long as Kluivert keeps scoring it should help contain the disquiet among nationalistic supporters that a club seen as the standard-bearer of Catalonia is being taken over by Dutchmen. There are currently six of themon the playing staff along with five coaches.

Real Madrid fans so far have no such qualms about their Dutch coach, Guus Hiddink, who has guided them to the top of the table — with three games played — after last year's disappointing league campaign.

However relations between Van Gaal and Hiddink, who was preferred for the Holland job in 1994, remain frosty. The two did not so much as look at each other before, during or after Saturday's match.

Ice Hockey

Storm do their homework

Vic Batchelder

MANCHESTER Storm begin their third European Hockey League campaign tonight when they entertain the top Finnish side Ilves Tampere, and the hosts have once again been well prepared by their American coach Kurt Kleinendorst.

Last season Storm exceeded expectations, only the Russian side Lada Togliatti's superior goal-difference — by one goal — edging them out of the second of two best runners-up spots which accompanied the six divisional winners. This time all six second-placed teams progress.

The coach has prepared detailed dossiers for his players, as he did last year through the divisional games. "It's pretty thorough but I'm going to ask them to look it over, not study it, just understand the other team's strengths," he said. "Then throw it away and concentrate on our game."

The preparations began six weeks ago. "We're ahead of some other teams because of our pre-season trip to Switzerland and Germany, where we got six games under our belts. "Having said that, Tampere's probably the best team in our group and we've got to start right off the hop with them. It's not going to be easy, for sure."

The Swedish side Leksands and the Italian champions Bolzano are their other opponents.

Kleinendorst has left little to chance. He left out Frank Pietrangelo from Saturday's 3–2 win at Nottingham, using the back-up goalminder Colum Cavilla.

"We rested Frank because I didn't think he could play three games in four nights," the coach added.

Pietrangelo was back for Sunday's visit of Sheffield, and a late powerplay goal by Jonathan Weaver secured a 2–2 draw.

Collectively the results ensured Storm finished on top of Group B of the Benson & Hedges Cup Group Round, giving them a home-and-away knock-out tie against Kingston in the Challenge Round on Friday and Sunday.

Team talk

The independent news and reports service

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Arsenal	60	Derby County	72	Nottm. Forest	95
Aston Villa	61	Everton	73	Oxford	14
Barnsley	62	Fulham	57	QPR	96
Birm. City	63	Grimsby	15	Rangers	97
Blackburn	64	Hudd. Town	74	Reading	59
Bolton	65	Ipswich Town	75	Sheffield United	88
Brentford	66	Leeds United	76	Sheffield Wed.	89
Burnley	67	Leicester City	77	Southampton	90
Bury	11	Liverpool	78	Spurs	91
Celtic	68	Man. City	79	Stoke City	92
Charlton	99	Man. United	80	Stockport	12
Chelsea	69	Middlesbrough	81	Sunderland	93
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				Wolves	96

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*The*Guardian INTERACTIVE

Results

Football

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Blackburn (1) 3 — Chelsea (1) 4
Sutton 22, 79 (pen) — Zola 15
Perez 57 — Leboeuf 51 (pen)
23,113 — Flo 82, 88

CONFERENCE: Kidderminster 2 Forest Green 2.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier Division: Emley 2 Bishop Auckland 0.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Atherstone 1 Worcester C 1.

PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier: Sunderland 3 Everton 0. **Postponed:** Liverpool v Derby. **League Cup: Group Five:** Bury 1 Stoke 0.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: Reading 1 Watford 4.

Tennis

ATP ROMANIAN OPEN (Bucharest): **Final: F Clavet** (Sp) bt A di Pasquale (Fr) 6–4, 2–6, 7–6.

American Football

NFL: Buffalo 33 St Louis 34; Cincinnati 6 Green Bay 13; Kansas City 23 San Diego 7; Miami 21 Pittsburgh 0; Minnesota 29 Detroit 6; New England 27 Tennessee 16, NY Jets 44 Indianapolis 6; Seattle 24 Washington 14; Tampa Bay 27 Chicago 15; Jacksonville 24 Baltimore 10; Oakland 17 Denver 34; Arizona 17 Philadelphia 3.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 5, Kansas City 3; Detroit 0 Minnesota 3; Chicago WS 6 Boston 4; Texas 3 Oakland 6; Anaheim 3 Seattle 1; Baltimore 4 NY Yankees 6; Tampa Bay 5 Toronto 7. **Leading standings: East Division:** 1, *NY Yankees (W107, L47, Pct.695, GB0); 2, Boston (86–68–.558–21); 3, Toronto (83–73–.532–25). **Central:** 1, *Cleveland (97–67–.685–0); 2, Chicago WS (75–80–.484–129); 3, Kansas City (71–83–.461–18). **West:** 1, Texas (83–72–.535–0); 2, Anaheim (83–72–.535–0); 3, Seattle (72–82–.468–10½). (*=Clinched Div title).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia 6 Montreal 3, Pitsburgh 0 Houston 2; NY Mets 5 Florida 0; Milwaukee 6 St Louis 11; Chicago Cubs 3 Cincinnati 7; Arizona 0 Atlanta 10; San Francisco 0 Los Angeles 1; San Diego 0 Colorado 1 (11 inns). **Leading standings: East Division:** 1, *Atlanta (W101, L56, Pct.643, GB0); 2, NY Mets (88–69–.561–13); 3, Philadelphia (72–83–.465–29). **Central:** 1, *Houston (89–58–.631–0). 2, Chicago Cubs (67–70–.554–12); 3, St Louis (79–77–.506–196) **West:** 1, *San Diego (86–61–.611–0); 2, San Francisco (83–72–.535–12); 3, Los Angeles (78–77–.506–16½). (*=Clinched Div title).

Cycling

TOUR OF SPAIN: Stage 16 (Soria to Lagunas de Neila; 143.7km): J M Jimenez (Sp) Banesto 3hr 28mm 12sec; 2, L Jalabert (Fr) Once at 33sec; 3, F Escartin (Sp) Kelme same time; 4, A Zuelle (Switz) Lotus 39; 5, R Virenque (Fr) Lotus st; 6, M Beltran (Sp) Banesto 46. **Overall:** 1, Olano 69hr 5min 4sec; 2, Jalabert 22sec; 3, Jiminez 31; 4, Escartin 36; 5, Zuelle 2.12. 6, Clavero 2 17.

Chess

CAPCAN MATCH (Roquebrune, Fr): **Round 12:** Women 4½ Veterans 1½. **Final results:** Women 36 Veterans 36. N Iosseliani (Geo) 1 V Hort (Ger) 0; P Cramling (Swe) 1 V Smyslov (Rus) 0; K Arakhamia (Geo) 1 M Taimanov (Rus) 0; 3 draws. **Final individual leaders:** V Korchnoi (Switz) 9; M Chiburdanidze (Geo), B Spassky (Fr) 7½; Zhu Chen (China), Hort 7; Cramling 6½.

Ice Hockey

BENSON & HEDGES CUP: Cardiff 5 Ayr 5; Edinburgh 3 Telford 5; Kingston 4 Slough 5; London 2 Nottingham 2 (Milton Keynes); Manchester 2 Sheffield 2; Paisley 2 Fife 3; Peterborough 6 Guildford 7.

Kuala Lumpur results

Athletics

Men: 1500m final: 1, L Rotich (Ken) 3min 39.49sec; 2, J Maycock (Eng) 3.40.46; 3, A Whiteman (Eng) 3.40.70; 5, K McKay (Eng) 3.43.22; 9, C Stephenson (Wales) 3.44.82. **4x100m final:** 1, England 39.20sec; 2, Canada 39.46; 3, Australia 39.59, 4, Wales 39.73.

4x400m final: 1, Jamaica 2.59.03; 2, England 3 00.82; 3, Wales 3 01.86.

50km road walk: 1, G Saravanan (Mas) 4hr 10min 05sec; 2, D Cousins (Aus) 4.10.39; 3, D McGrath (Aus) 4.12.52; 4, S Hollier (Eng) 4.18.41; 5, M Easton (Eng) 4.22.23; 6, M White (Scot) 4.30.17, 8, C Cheeseman (Eng) 4.36.36.

Javelin final: 1, M Corbett (SA) 86.75m; 2, S Backley (Eng) 87.38; 3, M Hill (Eng) 83.80; 4, M Roberson (Eng) 80.89; 8, N Bevan (Wales) 73.06.

Shot final: 1, B Lambrechts (SA) 20.01m, 2 M Louca (Cyprus) 19.52; 3, S Pickering (Wales) 19.33; 9, S Hayward (Scot) 16.69; 10, M Proctor (Eng) 16.78; 12 M Edwards (Eng) 16.59.

Women: 1500m final: 1, J Marange (Ken) 4.05.27, 2, K Holmes (Eng) 4.06.10; 3, J Sakara (Zim) 4.07.82; 6, A Crowe (NI) 4.10.68; 9, H Pattinson (Eng) 4.12.61; 10, L Gibson (Eng) 4 13.36.

4x100m final: 1, Australia 43.39; 2, Jamaica 43.40; 3, England 43.89.

4x400m final: 1, Australia 3.27.28; 2, England 3.29.26; 3, Canada 3.29.97.

100m hurdles final: 1, G Russell (Jam) 12.70; 2, M Kwawansha (Sri) 12.95; 3, K Anderson (Can) 13.04; 6, K Maddox (Eng) 13.30.

Triple jump final: 1, A Hansen (Eng) 14.32m; 2, F Mbango (Cmr) 13.86; 3, C Henry (Eng) 13.94; 5, M Griffith (Eng) 13.77.

Badminton

Men: Singles final: W Choon Hann (Mas) bt Y Hock Kin (Mas) 10–15, 15–12, 15–8. **Doubles final:** C Tan Pook/L Wan Wah (Mas) bt C Soon Kit/Y Kim Hock (Mas) 15–7, 15–4.

Gymnastics

Rhythmic: ropes 1, E-L Stirton (Can) 9.508pts; 2, L Marning (Aus) 9.500; 3, T Chee Kiat (Mas) 9.486. **Rhythmic hoops:** 1, E-L Stirton (Can) 9.624; 2, T Chee Kiat (Mas) 9.524, 3, L Marning (Aus) 9.500. **Rhythmic clubs:** 1, E-L Stirton (Can) 9.583; 2, S Johnston (Aus) 9.458; 3, E Livingston (Can) 9.341. **Rhythmic ribbons** 1, E-L Stirton (Can) 9.650; 2, S Johnston (Aus) 9.491; 3, C Au Yong (Mas) 9.391.

Netball

Final: Australia 42 New Zealand 38. **Bronze play-off:** England 56 SA 54.

Fixtures

(7.45 unless stated)

Football

WORTHINGTON CUP: Second-round, second leg: Birmingham (3) v Macclesfield (0); Bradford C (2) v Halifax (1); Cambridge Utd (1) v Shelf Wed (0), Charlton (2) v QPR (0); Chester (0) v Sunderland (3) 17.30); Chesterfield (0) v Leicester (3); Crewe (1) v Bristol C (1); Grimsby (1) v Shelf Utd (2); Hull (1) v Bolton (3) (7.30); Luton (1) v Ipswich (2), Notts Forest (5) v Leyton Orient (1); Southend (0) v Coventry (1), Tranmere (1) v Blackpool (2); West Ham (0) v Northampton (2); Wigan (0) v Norwich (1); Wimbledon (1) v Portsmouth (2); Wolverhampton (1) v Bournemouth (1), Wycombe (0) v Middlesbrough (2).

FA CUP (7.30): **First-round qualifying replays:** Armthorpe Wel v Tadcaster Alb; Netherfield Kendall v Seaham RS; Maltby Main v Droylsden; Workington v Oswaldtwistle Alb; Whitley Bay v Gt Harwood Tn, Bedworth Utd v Stafford Rngrs, St Neots Tn v Chalfont St Peter; Barkingside v Hinckley Utd; Histon v Canvey Island, Basildon Utd v Burnham Ramblers; Barton Rvrs v Ford Utd; Great Yarmouth Tn v Newmarket Tn, Lowestoft Tn v Staines Tn; Bedford Tn v Clacton Tn, Uxbridge v Sudbury Wndrs, Lymington & New Milton v Sheppey Utd, Bracknell Tn v Horsham; Tunbridge Wells v Eastbourne Tn; Chichester C v Windsor & Eton; Banstead Ath v Whyteleafe; Odd Down v Cirencester; Penrhyn Tn v Bristol Manor; Elmore v Westbury Utd; Cinderford Tn v Clevedon Tn.

CONFERENCE: Cheltenham v Woking, Leek Tn v Rushden & Diamonds, Morecambe v Doncaster; Welling v Kettering.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier Division: Accrington Stanley v Chorley (7.30); Colwyn Bay v Marine (7.30), Frickley v Blyth Spartans, Spennymoor v Gateshead (7.30) **First Division** (7.30): Flixton v Droylsden; Gretna v Gt Harwood Tn; Matlock Tn v Alfreton Tn SC; Stocksbridge PS v Radcliffe Bor; Whitley Bay v Harrogate Tn. **League Cup: First-round replays:** Burscough v Bamber Bridge (7.30). **President's Cup: First round:** Leigh RMI v Ashton Utd (7.30); Worksop v Farsley Celtic (7.30).

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Aldershot Tn v St Albans; Basingstoke v Dag & Red (7.30), Bishop's Stortford v Sutton Utd; Carshalton v Boreham Wood (7.30); Dulwich v Harrow Bor (7.30); Enfield v Heybridge (7.30); Hampton v Chesham (7.30); Hendon v Aylesbury (7.30); Slough v Billericay Tn; Walton & Hersham v Bromley. **First** (7.30), Canvey Island v Bognor Regis Tn, Chertsey Tn v Wealdstone; Grays Ath v Uxbridge; Maidenhead Utd v Leatherhead, Oxford C v Yeading, Romford v Croydon; Wembley v Barton Rvrs; Worthing v Berkhamsted Tn. **Second** (7.30): Banstead Ath v Wivenhoe Tn; Barking v Met Police; Bracknell Tn v Bedford Tn; Edgware Tn v Leighton Tn; Horsham v Hungerford Tn, Marlow v Abingdon Tn; Thame Utd v Witham Tn; Tooting & Mitcham v Northwood; Windsor & Eton v Wokingham Tn. **Third** (7.30): Aveley v Kingsbury Tn, Croydon Ath v Camberley Tn.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Burton Alb v Halesowen (7.30); Crawley Tn v Rothwell Tn, Gloucester C v Bath C (7.30), Grantham v Nuneaton, Gresley Rvrs v Merthyr (7.30), Hastings v Dorchester (7.30); Kings Lynn v Cambridge C, Tamworth v Bromsgrove (7.30), Weymouth v Salisbury.

N-W TRADING LEAGUE: First Division: Atherton LR v Kidsgrove Ath, Glossop North End v Salford C; Holker Old Boys v Marine Rd, Newcastle Tn v Lusk CSOB; Nantwich Tn v Mossley; Workington v Skelmersdale Utd.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE (7.30): **Premier Division:** Arnold Tn v Staveley MW; Garforth Tn v Liversedge; Ossett Tn v Armthorpe Wel.

PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Blackburn v Aston Villa (7.0) **Second Division:** Rotherham v Newcastle (7.0)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: Tottenham v Charlton (7.30); Arsenal v Chelsea (3.0).

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Peterhead v Fraserburgh (7.30), Rothes v Nairn County (8.0).

GILBERT LEAGUE CUP: First round: Bangor C v Conwy (7.30); Caersws v Barry Te (7.30).

NATIONWIDE GOLD CUP (7.30): **Section A:** Ballymena v Carrick, Cliftonville v Bangor; Coleraine v Distillery. **Section B:** Crusaders v Limavady Utd; Glenavon v Dungannon Swifts) Linfield v Newry. **Section C:** Glentoran v Larne, Omagh Tn v Ballyclare, Portadown v Ards

FAI CUP: Quarter-finales: Derry C v Cork C (7.30)

Rugby Union

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE: First Division: Llandovery v Rumney (7.0); Trudegar v UWIC (7.0, Cardiff Inst)

Ice Hockey

SKODA EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Manchester v Tampere (Fin) (7.0)

BENSON & HEDGES CUP: Telford v Edinburgh (7.30)

Pools Forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

1	Aston Villa	v Derby	1
2	Charlton	v Coventry	x
3	Chelsea	v Middlesbro	1
4	Everton	v Blackburn	x
5	Newcastle	v Nottm Forest	1
6	Shelf Wed	v Arsenal	2
7	Tottenham	v Leeds	x

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

8	Bolton	v Huddersfield	1
9	Bradford C	v Barnsley	x
10	Bristol City	v Crewe	1
11	Grimsby	v Port Vale	1
12	Norwich	v Birmingham	1
13	Oxford	v QPR	1
14	Portsmouth	v Sunderland	2
15	Stockport	v West Brom	x
16	Watford	v Ipswich	x
17	Wolves	v Bury	1

SECOND DIVISION

18	Bournemouth	v Oldham	1
19	Burnley	v Wigan	1
20	Chesterfield	v Wrexham	x
21	Colchester	v Wycombe	1
22	Lincoln	v Fulham	2
23	Luton	v Walsall	1
24	Macclesfield	v Reading	1
25	Northampton	v Man City	2
26	Notts County	v Millwall	1
27	Preston	v Gillingham	1
28	Stoke	v Blackpool	1
29	York	v Bristol Rvrs	x

THIRD DIVISION

30	Barnet	v Rotherham	2
31	Brentford	v Darlington	x
32	Brighton	v Scunthorpe	2
33	Cambridge	v Exeter	1
34	Chester	v Cardiff	2
35	Halifax	v Torquay	1
36	Hartlepool	v Peterborough	1
37	Mansfield	v Hull	1
38	Plymouth	v Scarborough	1
39	Rochdale	v Leyton O	1

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

40	Celtic	v Hearts	1
41	Dundee	v Motherwell	2
42	Dunfermline	v Rangers	2
43	St Johnstone	v Dundee Utd	1

SCOTTISH FIRST DIVISION

44	Ayr Utd	v Airdrie	x
45	Clydebank	v St Mirren	2
46	Falkirk	v Morton	1
47	Hibernian	v Hamilton	1
48	Stranraer	v Raith Rvrs	1

SCOTTISH SECOND DIVISION

49	Alloa	v Livingston	x

هكذا من الاصل

Commonwealth Games

Gold medal for Hansen as Holmes fights back with silver

Duncan Mackay in Kuala Lumpur on a final day of mixed emotions for England

WITH a single hop, step and jump Ashia Hansen salvaged her injury-wrecked season with a gold medal in the national stadium here yesterday. Kelly Holmes, also making a comeback, took silver in the women's 1500 metres.

There was disappointment for England when the javelin thrower Steve Backley failed to earn a place in the record books by becoming the first athlete to complete the European and Commonwealth title double in the same year for a third consecutive time. He was beaten by South Africa's Marius Corbett.

Jon Mayock gave England another silver in the 1500m and his team-mate Tony Whiteman collected bronze behind Kenya's Laban Rotich, who won in 3min 39.49sec.

There were angry scenes in the tunnel afterwards when another Kenyan, the fourth-placed John Kibowen, threatened Mayock.

"He said I pushed him," said Mayock. "I knocked him a little bit out of the way but it wasn't deliberate. The guy's a friend but he's been pushing me all season on the grand prix circuit."

Hansen was joined in victory by England's 4 x 100 metres relay team of Dwain Chambers, Marlon Devonish, Julian Golding and Darren Campbell.

But statistics were the last thing to concern Hansen and Holmes, both of whom have missed most of the season with serious injuries.

Hansen hurt her left heel in February while setting a world record of 15.16 metres at the European Indoor Championships in Valencia and resumed training only six weeks ago.

It was difficult for her right to the end of the triple jump competition. She falled her first two jumps before taking the lead with a third-round 14.32m. In the fourth she pulled up with a hamstring injury and she had to miss her final two jumps.

Fortunately her mastery over the field was such that it did not matter. Francoise Mbango of Cameroon was second with 13.95 and Hansen's Shaftesbury Barnet club-mate Connie Henry was third a centimetre further back.

"In many ways it's been a depressing year," said the 28-year-old Hansen. "But I'm not so bothered now that I was out for such a long time. I'm just delighted to have won a gold medal here."

Holmes, despite losing to Jackline Maranga the title she won in Victoria four years ago, was probably the happiest silver medallist of these Games.

After three years during which she has been bedevilled by injuries and thoughts of giving up, she was relieved to get four times round the track in one piece.

The former army sergeant saw her gold-medal hopes wrecked at the Olympics in 1996 by a stress fracture and by an Achilles injury at the World Championships in Athens last year, when she limped out during the first heat.

"This medal means more to me than any other I've won," she said. "I had a lot of doubts before I came here."

For a brief glorious moment it appeared Holmes might win when she attacked Maranga off the final bend only for the Kenyan to pull away to clock 4:05.27, taking nearly a second off the 20-year-old Games record of Scotland's Mary Stewart. Holmes ran 4:06.10.

Backley, who arrived at these Games as one of the hottest favourites after a summer which has seen him retain his European and World Cup titles, was felled by what he described as the "Marius Corbett effect".

The South African, who beat the Englishman into second place at the World Championships, had been so badly injured last week he had considered not even travelling.

But Corbett unleashed a huge effort of 88.75 metres in the second round to take a lead he never relinquished. Backley had to settle for silver with 87.38 and Mick Hill, his training partner, was third.

"I'm disappointed but I had a good season and I am the world No. 1," Backley said. "I thought I had Marius covered but obviously I didn't."

There were silver medals in the men's 4 x 400 metres relay and bronze in the women's 4 x 100 and 4x400 but England's final gold medal was by the sprint relay squad, who set a Games-record 38.20 in beating Canada, the Olympic champions.

Appropriately Campbell, who anchored them home, was born and bred in Manchester, where the Commonwealth will reunite for the next Games in 2002.

● There was heartbreak in the 50km walk when the New Zealander Craig Barrett, five minutes in front and only a kilometre from the finish line, collapsed from exhaustion. He staggered back to his feet three times but eventually his legs turned to rubber.

The gold medal went to Govindaswamy Saravanan, who gave Malaysia their first athletics gold ever at the Commonwealth Games. "I have a feeling of loss, having gold so close," said the devastated Barrett. "I only had to get around the corner."



Jumping for joy . . . Ashia Hansen takes to the air in her successful quest for gold PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENCE GRIFFITHS

Sport in brief

Disillusioned Turner walks out on Bedford

PAUL TURNER, the Bedford coach, last night resigned from his post at the newly promoted Premiership One club. The 39-year-old former Wales international fly-half, who was still playing for the club last season, is thought to be disenchanted with the club's financial problems. Bedford's 29 professional players threatened to strike last week and industrial action was only averted by the late arrival of monthly pay-cheques. The assets of Bedford's chairman, the boxing promoter Frank Warren, have been frozen because of his legal battle with the American promoter Don King.

Turner's leaving, following that of the recent acrimonious departure of the former Wales full-back Mike Rayer to Cardiff, is a massive blow to Bedford who face the Premiership leaders Leicester at Goldington Road this weekend.

Cal calls time on The Streak

CAL RIPKEN, the most idolised baseball player of the modern era, has terminated the 16-year consecutive-games record that came to be known as simply The Streak, *writes Martin Kettle in Washington*. The Baltimore third baseman called time at 2,632 games on Sunday when he missed his first start since May 30, 1982. The Orioles' final home game of the season ended in a 5-4 win for the New York Yankees — fittingly the team of Lou Gehrig, whose record of 2,130 straight games Ripken passed in September 1995. The 38-year-old Ripken withdrew after telling his team coach: "I think it's time."

McCullough to face Hamed

NASEEM HAMED will defend his World Boxing Organisation featherweight title against the Irishman Wayne McCullough in Atlantic City on October 31. Hamed has an unbeaten 30-fight record while McCullough, the former World Boxing Council bantamweight champion, has won 22 of his 23 fights at bantam and super-bantamweight.

Whitfield new Widnes coach

WIDNES, who finished third from bottom of the First Division this season, have appointed Colin Whitfield as their new head coach. The 37-year-old Whitfield had been in charge since New Zealander Graeme West left the club seven weeks ago.

Jiminez misses Wentworth

MIGUEL ANGEL Jimenez's victory in the Lancôme Trophy on Sunday came too late to force his way into the line-up for the World Match Play Championship at Wentworth next month. Organisers opted for the top five in Europe's Order of Merit before the tournament, which the Spaniard won to overtake Denmark's Thomas Bjorn and move up to fifth in the list.

Bjorn keeps his place in the 12-man event from October 15 to 18 alongside the British trio of Colin Montgomerie, Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke, plus Patrik Sjoland of Sweden, and the four seeds: the defending champion Vijay Singh of Fiji; the three-times winner Ernie Els of South Africa; and the Americans Mark O'Meara, and Tiger Woods, the world No. 1.

Britons sail into lead

BRITONS lead three of the classes in the Olympic classes regatta held in Sydney Harbour, including Andy and Ian Budgen at the front of the 49er class after three first places in a row, *writes Bob Fisher*. Ben Ainslie, the Laser silver medallist at the last Olympic Games, is seven points ahead of the gold medallist, Robert Scheidt of Brazil, and in the Soling class Andy Beadsworth, Richard Sydenham and Adrian Stead are also seven points ahead of the 1984 gold medal winner Rod Davis, now racing for New Zealand.

Counties line-up for Cup

THE newly crowned county champions Leicestershire will kick off their challenge for the new Super Cup next season with a home tie against Warwickshire. Eight teams will compete in the new 50-overs-a-side competition with the final at Lord's next summer. The other quarter-finals are Lancashire v Sussex, Yorkshire v Hampshire and Gloucestershire v Surrey.

The 1998 first-class averages will appear in tomorrow's Guardian.

Malaysia presents a positive face amid a political crisis

David Hopps on the lessons Manchester can learn from the Friendly Games which became a richly satisfying affair

FOR the past 10 days Malaysia has presented a positive face to the world. The XVI Commonwealth Games have satisfied even the most optimistic expectations and the influx of eager young sportsmen and women has filled the streets with life.

But today Malaysians wake up again to the reality of a country saddled with an economic crash and haunted by a gathering political crisis.

Whatever challenges await Manchester in 2002, it will be reasonably confident that it will not have to stage the next Commonwealth Games to the backdrop of deep-seated economic recession, a depreciated currency and the Prime Minister's sacking of his deputy because of allegations of "moral misconduct" and "gross sexual indecency". In such circumstances the remarkably smooth running of these Games became an act of political will.

The closing ceremony at the Bukit Jalil Stadium, with Queen Elizabeth in attendance, ended the Games on a traditionally upbeat note. But 24 hours earlier the streets had been the scene of rioting as protesters at the arrest of the Deputy Prime Minister, Anwar Ibrahim, were dispersed by police.

Those sportswriters committed to dead-of-night journeys between the main stadium and the media centre at their hotel on the traffic-clogged Serambin Highway have cause to feel marginalised from such events. The nearest many came to sensing nationalistic tension was at 3am yesterday when the sole Filipino singer in an otherwise Malaysian band was ordered by the saxophonist to "get out of the country". Geri's split from the Spice Girls was peaceful by comparison.

In terms of sporting terms, though, Malaysia has succeeded. Undoubtedly. The first Commonwealth Games in Asia have been a satisfying affair, better organised and less jingoistic than the Atlanta Olympics two years ago, and making the last Games, in Victoria, resemble a village fete by comparison. A bid for the 2008 Olympics should not idly be dismissed.

Advance ticket sales, though, were confused, especially overseas where even the national carrier, Air Malaysia, offered no more detailed information than "buy them while you're there". Many Malaysians did — and at the last minute, with 50,000 on-day sales swelling the crowd for the 100 metres final to 70,000. A profit will be announced, with or without the help of creative accounting.

The athletics were of patchy standard, but that 100m final, won in 9.88sec by Ato Boldon of Trinidad, would have graced the Olympics. Iwan Thomas's performance to win gold in the 400m was exceptional after a gruelling schedule that has now seen him win European, Commonwealth and World Cup titles within a month in Budapest, Johannesburg and Kuala Lumpur: three continents, three climates.

Colin Jackson's contribution to British athletics has been immense but his decision to race in an invitation meeting in Tokyo rather than in KL smacked unhappily of the attractions of finance ahead of fraternity, which perhaps one day he will learn to regret.

And, be as snide as you like, within the high expectations of modern-day sport these do remain the Friendly Games. One of the most remarkable sights was of Australia's cricket captain Steve Waugh, with his face painted in the Australian flag, cheering on his country's swimmers from the crowd. How Waugh's failure to win gold hurt him, and how pathetic that 15 English professional cricketers were denied the entire enriching experience.

For the England and Wales Cricket Board even to float the possibility that an experimental version of cricket might be played in Manchester disparaged Games tradition, and the unanimous insistence from competing nations upon 50-overs cricket was entirely appropriate.

Manchester's delegation quickly realised that team sports, making their debut in the Games, had a revivifying effect. Cricket, rugby sevens, hockey and netball all drew enthusiastic crowds; all deserve to be retained, and the country must have the imagination to meet the cost.

England can point to several small steps forward; swimming's 22 medals, led by Sue Rolph and James Hickman, equalled their tally in Brisbane 16 years ago when the Australians were considerably weaker. Lottery funding promises a more organised future throughout Britain, but the work has barely begun, with more effective coaching and regional centres of excellence still required. The Australians are now the benchmark.

Just as importantly Manchester, four years from now, can help restore a balance. England's growing obsession with Premiership football is in danger of becoming so all-consuming that even Lottery grants may not help several minor sports discover a new generation of champions.

But it is the unpredictable joining of cultures which contrives to make the Commonwealth Games so diverting. Their competition over, two large and hairy Scotsmen in kilts caught the attention when they entered Modestos bar in the early hours. One Malaysian, without a word of a lie, said to another: "I don't think much to their ladyboys."

Victoria resembled a village fete by comparison

Final table

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Australia	80	60	58
England	35	47	53
Canada	30	31	36
Malaysia	10	14	12
South Africa	9	11	15
New Zealand	8	7	18
India	7	10	8
Kenya	7	5	4
Jamaica	4	2	0
Wales	3	4	8
Scotland	3	2	7
Nauru	3	0	0
N Ireland	2	1	2
Zimbabwe	2	0	3
Ghana	1	1	3
Cyprus	1	1	1
Mauritius	1	1	1
Tanzania	1	1	1
Trin & Tobago	1	1	1
Bahamas	1	1	0
Mozambique	1	1	0
Barbados	1	0	2
Lesotho	1	0	0
Cameroon	0	3	3
Namibia	0	2	1
Seychelles	0	2	0
Sri Lanka	0	1	1
Bermuda	0	1	0
Fiji	0	1	0
Isle of Man	0	1	0
Pakistan	0	1	0
Papua NG	0	0	1
Uganda	0	0	1
Zambia	0	0	1

NB: Two bronzes each in women's and men's team badminton; two in men's gymnastics floor exercises; two each in men's and women's squash; two each in team bowls men's and women's fours and women's pairs.

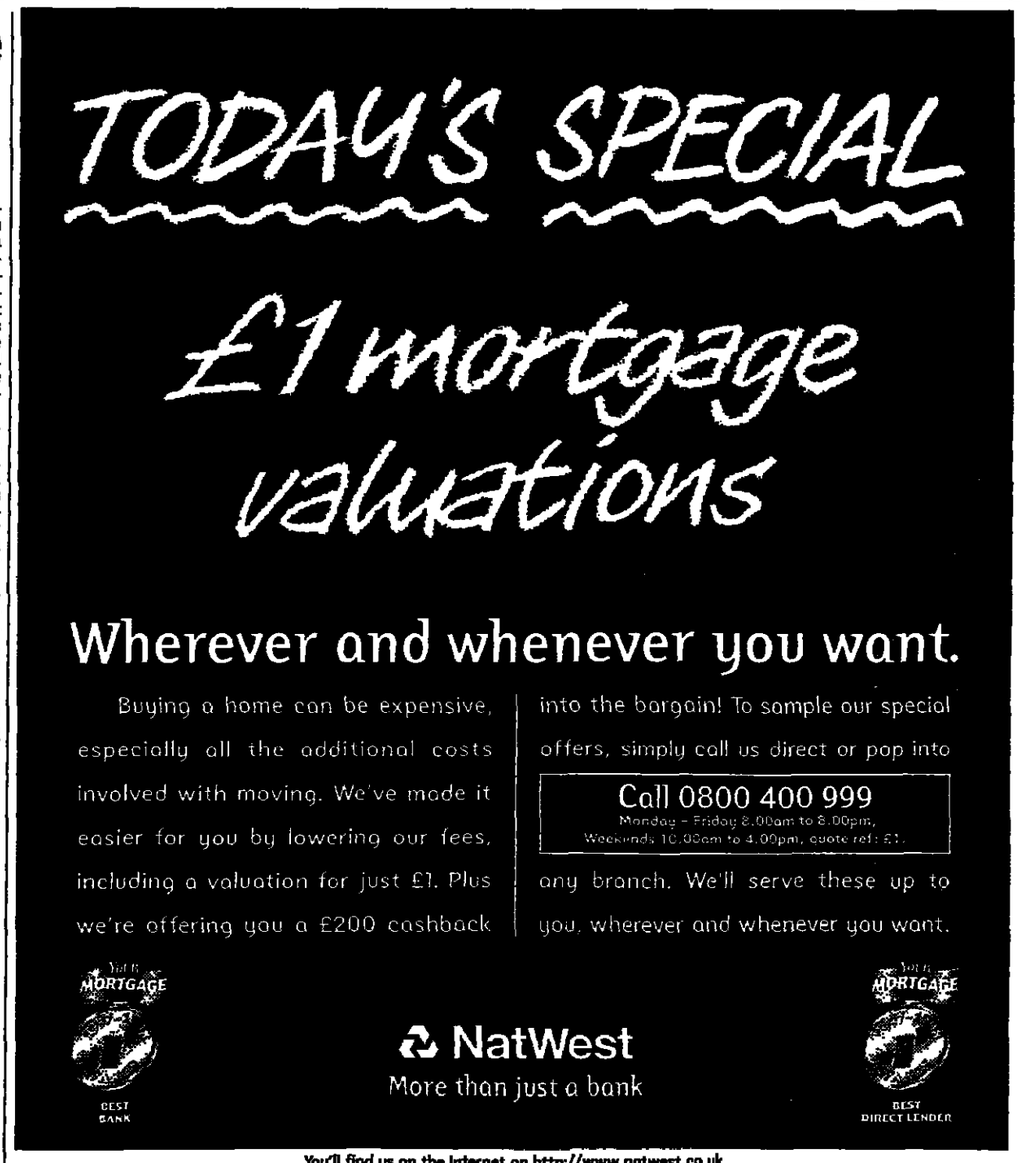
Murtagh and Co cough up bronze

FIONA MURTAGH coughed and spluttered into international retirement yesterday with the insistence: "I feel great." There was no doubt about the remedy for her chest infection: her netball bronze medal, *writes David Hopps*.

England have been ranked fourth in the world for as long as their captain can remember — and she won the first of her 92 caps nine years ago — but they held off South Africa 56-54.

Australia, who trounced England 66-29 in the final pool match, took gold by beating New Zealand 42-39.

In the badminton a late Malaysian substitute, Wong Choon Han, beat his compatriot Yong Hock Kin 10-15, 15-12, 15-6. Wong, 21, played because the title holder Rashid Sidek and Roslin Hashim were banned in a club v country row.



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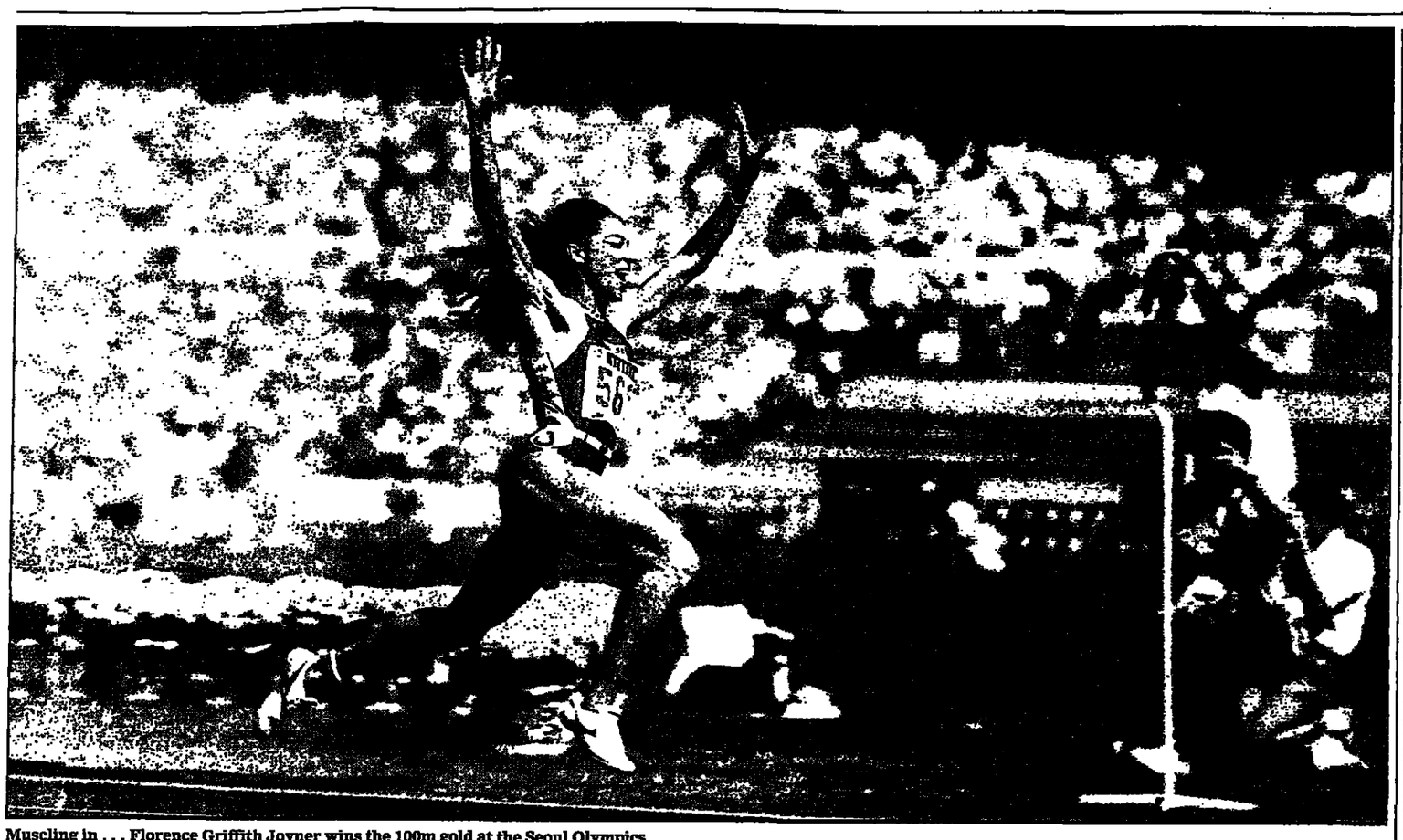
Reid handed plum Ascot ride, page 13

Villa hot on trail of Cole, page 14

England sign off with more gold, page 15

Bedford coach walks out, page 15

SportsGuardian



Muscling in . . . Florence Griffith Joyner wins the 100m gold at the Seoul Olympics

Speed queen Flo-Jo dies at 38

Duncan Mackay on the controversial life and early death of the world's fastest woman

FLORENCE Griffith Joyner, the triple Olympic gold medallist at the 1988 Olympics whose phenomenal performances attracted suspicions that she used performance-enhancing drugs, died yesterday of an apparent heart attack in Mission Viejo, California. She was 38.

This week marks the 10th anniversary of the Seoul Olympics where Flo-Jo won gold medals in the 100 metres, the 200m and the 4 x 100m relay. She still holds the world record for the 100m and 200m.

Griffith Joyner — wife of the 1984 Olympic triple jump gold medallist Al Joyner and sister-in-law of Jackie Joyner-Kersee, the world-record holder in the heptathlon and the 1984 and 1988 Olympic champion — had a heart seizure on a flight from California to St Louis in 1996 but her family asked that no details be released.

"We lost one of the great athletes in history," said Greg Foster, the triple world champion in the 110m hurdles and a close friend of the family.

"The Olympic family is saddened and stunned," said Bill Hybl, president of the US Olympic Committee.

Griffith Joyner was born in the Los Angeles suburb of Watts on December 21, 1959, the seventh of 11 children. She first displayed her athletic prowess as a five-year-old in the Mojave desert where she became speedy enough to catch a rabbit.

She set a world 100m mark of 10.49sec at the US Olympic trials in Indianapolis in 1988, and since then no one has even broken 10.60. She then smashed the world 200m record in the Olympic final, clocking 21.34: no one else has broken 21.60. Marion Jones, the current top sprinter, has run 10.61 and 21.62.

Griffith Joyner also caught the eye with her colourful outfits and often painted three of her long finger-nails red, white and blue and a fourth gold.

Primo Nebiolo, president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation, recalled: "I will never forget this extraordinary athlete who stunned the world in Seoul with her amazing sprints and spectacular outfits. Sadly, her life has passed as rapidly as her races."

Griffith Joyner's muscular physique and stunning improvement in 1988 prompted suggestions that she was using banned drugs. She had earned silver in the 200m at the 1984 Olympics and 1987 World Championships but had done nothing to suggest, at the age of 27, that she was about to become the greatest female athlete in history.

Griffith Joyner always insisted she never used drugs and never failed a drugs test. But further doubts were raised when she retired four months after Seoul. The decision followed the world-wide clampdown on doping in the wake of the scandal surrounding Ben Johnson, who was stripped of his 100m gold medal after testing positive for anabolic steroids.

Among the athletes who regularly cast scepticism over her massive improvement was her team-mate Carl Lewis. She always declined to take legal action against him.

After Seoul she concentrated on a career in public speaking and acting. She marketed her own collection of athletic wear and a line in nail varnish and was chosen in 1996 by President Clinton to replace Arnold Schwarzenegger as chair of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

Clinton expressed his "shock and sadness" over her death. "Flo-Jo earned the right to be called the world's fastest woman," he said. "We were dazzled by her speed, humbled by her talent and captivated by her style."

Obituary, page 9

The medals

OLYMPIC GAMES

1984	200m	silver
1988	100m	gold
	200m	gold
	4x100m relay	gold
	4x400m relay	silver

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

1987	200m	silver
	4x100m	gold

WORLD RECORDS (still current)

100m	10.49sec (1988)
200m	21.34sec (1988)

Enjoy pain? Full-time ref's the job for you



Jim White

THE other night, as part of the ever-accelerating battle of titillation that is the television schedules this autumn, Channel 4 screened Nick Bloomfield's film Fetishes, a fly-on-the-whip piece about a brothel in Manhattan specialising in sado-masochism.

One sequence featured an interview with the establishment's madame who, as she spoke, was attended by a client wearing nothing but a rubber mask. The naked man knelt at her side as she flicked ash from her cigarette into his open mouth. When she had finished smoking she stubbed out her snout on the man's tongue: he proceeded to swallow the dog end.

Astonished, Bloomfield asked if that was it or if the stub-chewer required any further service. No, replied the madame, this was all he wanted and what's more he paid more than $150 an hour to end up with his mouth tasting like an old ashtray.

But what seemed really surprising about the man and his predilictions was that, as a student of pain, he had not heard of a much more cunning method of achieving his bizarre thrill. One which, moreover, far from requiring a payment, is about to emerge from the closet as a full-time profession.

Why, in short, if he was turned on by ritual humiliation, did the ash fan not become a football referee?

Just think about the possibilities. Stroll out in front of 35,000 people who all hate you, spend 90 minutes with 21 grown men (and Roy Keane) spitting bile in your face and then finish with a lashing from Alex Ferguson.

How can a Manhattan madame top that? Especially if, to round off the perfect day's self-loathing, you can repair to the privacy of your own home and watch your afternoon's suffering on video while counting the £375 plus expenses you have picked up for your pain.

Now we learn, to add to the masochistic pleasure, that referees are to become full-timers. No longer will fans need to turn to their programme to discover what particularly well-suited occupation the man in black enjoys — usually policeman or geography teacher. Soon we will all know the answer without looking: he is a referee.

Which begs an important question: what will these professional refs do with themselves when they aren't officiating? What will they do that will make them more efficient than they were as amateurs? Spend their time observing how city-centre clamping squads deal with mouthy drivers, perhaps, or sit in on the human-resources director of any major plc at work, ruthlessly giving the workforce the red card. Or will they hone their skills watching the British Board of Film Censors removing the bits of movies we all want to see?

The point is, why will making referees full-time and professional do anything to improve their abilities? Does an official really fail to spot that a winning goal was a mile offside because he was daydreaming about why no one in 5C could remember the capital of Uzbekistan? Or is it because he was not up to the job?

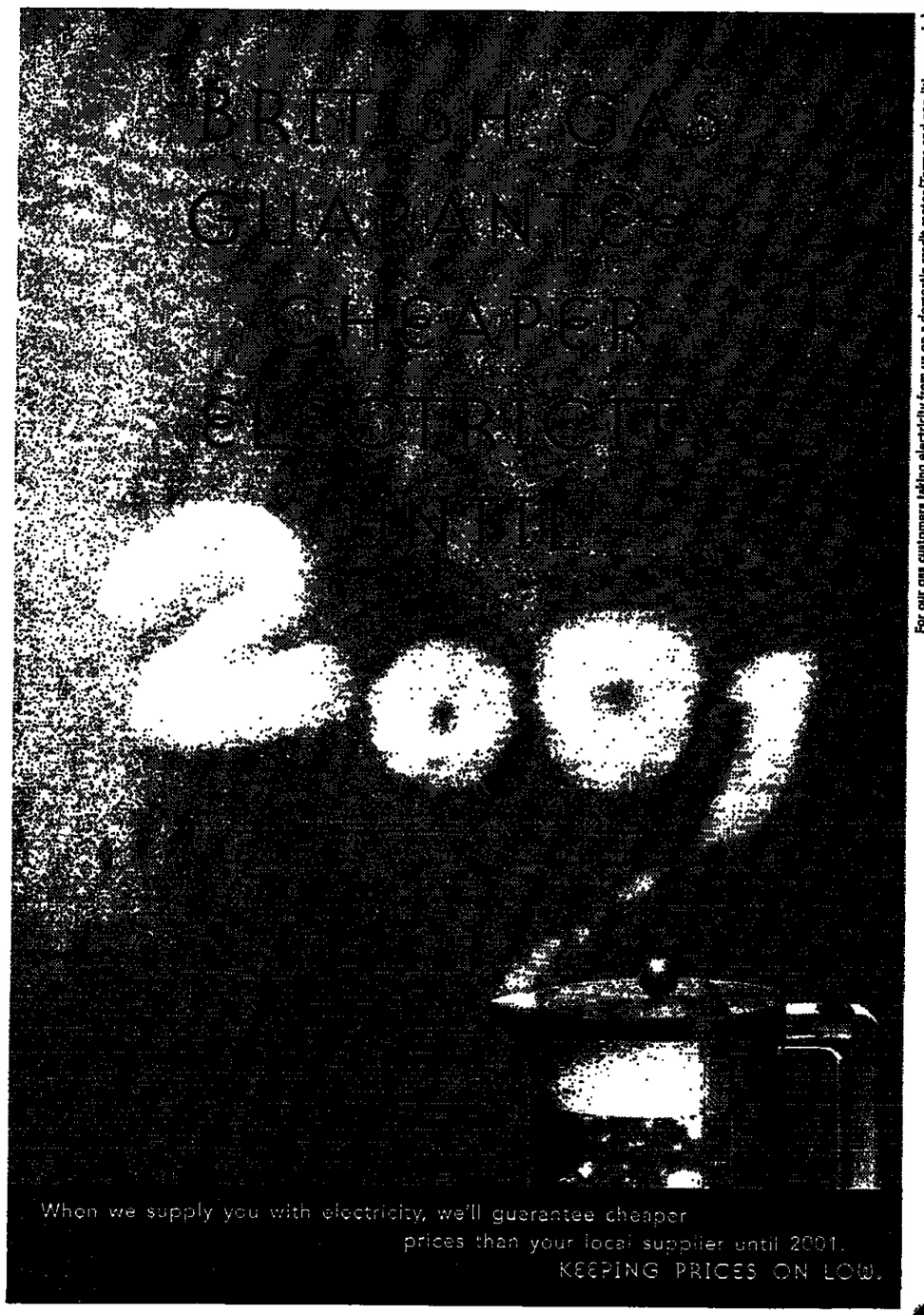
THE principal purpose, it seems, in professionalising refereeing is to do away with pejorative connotations of the term amateur. But what is needed more urgently than PR gloss about the status of names is action to resolve the recruitment crisis among refs.

The Referees' Association claims as many people join its list as leave every year. The problem, though, is not so much the quantity as the quality of the new arrivals.

No one with any spark — no former professional player, for instance — wants to drudge through the lengthy career structure as it stands. Only the seriously masochistic would put themselves through the several seasons' apprenticeship in the park leagues required by the Referees' Association, where in addition to lippy players and wannabe Martin O'Neills fuming on the touchline, officials face a real possibility of physical assault.

There were more than 350 such attacks last season, 12 of which resulted in serious injury. A fast track for the obviously experienced might make a more significant contribution to improving standards than simply calling the present system professional.

But in the meantime, if anyone is short of an official to conduct their kickaround, Nick Bloomfield can help with a few likely candidates. Which could lead to the intriguing new chant from the stands: "Who's the bastard in the rubber mask?"



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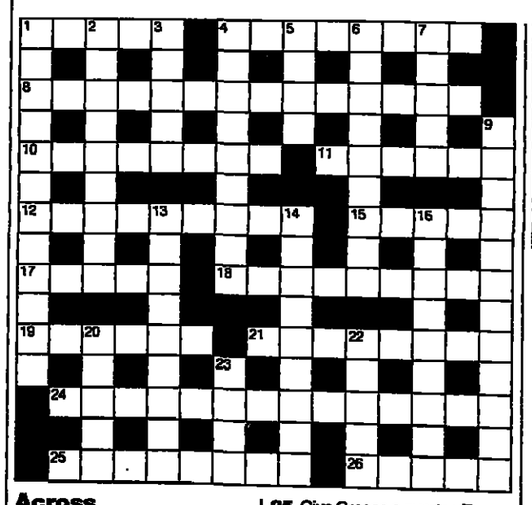
Researchers are keen to compare the antioxidant properties of a mug of tea to a portion of fruit or a glass of orange juice, but that doesn't mean you can swap one for the other any more than you should give up salad on account of the health benefits of red wine.

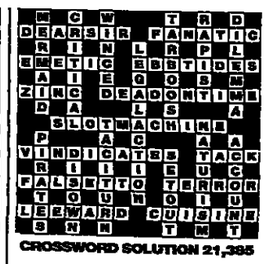
Why tea is good for you

G2 p10

Guardian Crossword No 21,386

Set by Bunthorne





CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,385

Across

1 As sapid as pied blackbirds (5)
4 Lenin's mate (6)
8 Former gangers did penance without taking one in (14)
10 Dressing up, alas, with fallen idol (5,3)
11 Tax royal duck (6)
12 Cash dealer incurs wrath from the old church (9)
15 Exploit recalled while still in bed (3,2)
17 Savings plan turns into what it ought! (5)
18 Old bore speaking with fabulous jabberl (9)
19 Plaguesome type demands place and time (8)
21 Such vitamin deficiency calling for twice the fruit (8)
24 See 9
25 Give Greece a quarter. Ta very much! (8)
26 Christmas, as heard in Surrey (5)

Down

1 See 4
2 Oxford ties (4-5)
3 Cave in proceeds (5)
4,1 down,5 Form of 9,24 might soften the Liberal veterans. G———l (3,6,12,4)
6 A course in radical dentistry . . . (4,5)
7 . . . course little way out (5)
9,24 One way to return stumbles onto terror in partisan people (12,14)
13 Remedy could immunise rat if I'm not involved (9)
14 On the battlefield of 1346, without an instance of desertion (9)
16 Hardly a grand crew on board, by the sound of it (5,4)
20 Faultless net (5)
22 Cross desert? That's out! (5)
23 In fact, he wants a revolution to restore him (4)

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